



THE KERALA SOAP INSTITUTE, CALICUT—cont.

Manufacturing account for the quarter ending 30th June 1924.

	Vegetol soap.	Washwell soap.	Toilet soap.	Yellow bar soap.	Deepa brand soap.	Fish-oil soft soap.	Fish-oil r soap.
	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.	RS. A. P.
To Stock in process of manufacture.	386 0 9	29,993 3 4	544 2 11	..	..	..	..
„ Raw materials, fire-wood, etc., used.	2,782 10 1	3,560 9 7	895 3 6	30,801 1 7	28 3 8	1,348 4 7	416 ..
„ Wages ..	33 14 4	347 7 9	37 8 3	645 11 0	9 6 9	38 1 0	15 1 ..
„ Factory overheads ..	251 4 2	3,209 12 7	91 2 2	2,622 2 4	5 14 0	353 2 2	101 ..
Total ..	3,453 13 4	37,111 1 3	1,568 0 10	34,068 14 11	53 8 5	1,739 7 9	533 ..
By Scraps, etc., used for other soaps.	786 1 6	994 10 0	29 0 4	..	..	..	..
„ Finished soaps sent to Stores.	2,667 11 10	10,646 11 4	101 15 0	22,070 10 9	..	1,707 15 0	533 ..
„ Stock in process of manufacture.	..	25,469 11 11	1,437 1 6	11,998 4 2	53 8 5	31 8 9	..
Total ..	3,453 13 4	37,111 1 3	1,568 0 10	34,068 14 11	53 8 5	1,739 7 9	533 ..

[4th March 1925]

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ May I know the reasons why his enquiries were specially directed to the subject of the restriction on podu cultivation ? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ As a detailed enquiry into the general grievances of the people of the locality had already been made, he was apparently assigned only this particular duty.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ May I take it therefore that he made a long and detailed enquiry into other things ? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I do not think the assumption is correct. Other officers had made the wider enquiry and it was presumably left to the junior officers to make the detailed investigation of this side of the case.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ May I ask the hon. the Home Member whether, apart from the detailed enquiry by senior officers, he can tell us whether the people had any other grievance ? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I think, Sir, that question has already been answered. There were various allegations regarding the misconduct of certain subordinate officers, impressment of labour and so on. These were first of all enquired into by Mr. Henderson and afterwards by Mr. Rutherford and the people examined by them stated that they had no grievances.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ The hon. the Home Member said that people examined by them stated that they had no grievances. May I ask on what principle people were selected for examination ? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I am afraid I have no information.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ May I ask the hon. the Home Member to call for the information ? Because, it is quite possible that people who had been selected to appear before the officer might have said on account of fear that they had no grievance.”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I must emphatically repudiate the hon. Member's suggestion that officers conducting such enquiries select as witnesses the people who are likely to give the evidence that suits them best.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ In that case, may I know how they come forward ? Is it a case of everybody coming forward and being examined or is it a case of people being selected by some subordinate officer ? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I take it that people willing to be examined come forward of their own accord. To the best of my knowledge that is the case.”

Sriman SASIBHUSHAN RATH Mahasayo :—“ May I know if the paucity of lands in the Gudem taluk for agricultural operations is the chief grievance of the people there ? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I am afraid I must ask for notice.”

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—“ I should like to know whether the Government have made the promised enquiry into the causes of the fituri.”

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The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Yes, Sir. An enquiry was made, and to the best of my recollection the result of that enquiry was published in one form or another."

Court of Wards and Zamindars.

Purchase of a house for the Sivaganga zamindar.

* 298 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : With reference to the answers to question No. 1393 and supplementary question given on 5th December 1924, will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) if any inquiry into the circumstances under which an indemnity bond was taken for the purchase of a house for the Sivaganga zamindar has been made ;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Sivaganga zamindar is a major and is allowed control over certain matters and the Court of Wards has control over some other matters ; if that is so, whether the purchase of a house from funds at his disposal is one of the matters under his control ; and

(c) if the answer to the latter part is also in the affirmative, the circumstances that made the Court of Wards purchase a house for the zamindar ?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The enquiry promised is being made and answers to further questions will be considered on their receipt.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Sir, with regard to this question I wish to make a submission for your consideration. Sir, the answer to my question is not complete, seeing that the enquiry referred to therein is pending. May I request you therefore to postpone consideration of this question so that it may not necessitate notice of another question ? The enquiry may be completed in a fortnight and seeing that this session is a long one, this question may be kept pending receipt of the report of the enquiry ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I do not know what arrangements the Government make in such cases. I should like to know if there is any settled procedure before I decide what to do."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" Sir, my answer to that is that the matter is not in the hands of the Government. It is in your hands. Whenever the Government want time to answer a question for which the answer is not ready they have to apply to you. In some cases they send in interim answers as in this case when the report called for is not received. If you, Sir, rule that interim answers are not required, the Government would welcome it."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" If interim answers are made, such questions may be considered to be pending."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The Government have no objection to that at all."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I understand what the hon. Member is particular about is, where an inquiry is promised or where it is said that an inquiry is being made, whether the Government *suo motu* will bring the matter up again in the form of an answer. That is what the hon. Member wishes to know."

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The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I understand that the procedure is that when a promise of inquiry is made in answer to a question, it is open to the hon. Member to put a further question. Unless we definitely promise to lay the papers on the table it has never been understood that a promise to make an inquiry implies placing the papers on the table.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ I wish to know what the intention or the practice of the Government is in this matter. If it is the intention and the practice of the Government that where an inquiry is promised the result will not be placed before the House unless it is revived (the hon. Sir Arthur Knapp: Not necessarily) by means of a question, then it will be for me and for the House to take further steps in the matter. I thought that a matter of this kind would be brought up again by the Government *propres motu*.”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ The present is a special case, inasmuch as we have not answered the question. It thus is not on all fours with the general issue raised. This question I take it is whether further answers to this particular question will be given.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ That is to say whether this question will be treated as pending.”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ That is a matter for your ruling, Sir. If this is treated as pending because that we have not answered the question implies that we will give a further answer.”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ Particularity because the answer to this question contains the words ‘answers to further questions’ which I understand are the further questions comprised in this very question, ‘will be considered on their receipt.’ I think it necessarily implies that the Government will place the whole answer on the table.”

Settlements under Criminal Tribes Act.

Religious instruction to the members of the Pallavaram Criminal Settlement.

* 299 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the arrangements, if any, which have been made for the instruction to the members of the Pallavaram Criminal Settlement in the religions in which they were born;

(b) the facilities, if any, afforded to them for the exercise of their religious rites;

(c) whether any compulsion direct or indirect is brought to bear upon them to become Christians; and

(d) the number of conversions among the members of the Settlement?

A.—(a) No arrangements have been made.

(b) Each individual has the right to perform his religious ceremonies.

(c) No.

(d) About twelve members have voluntarily accepted Christianity.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ With reference to clause (a) of this question, may I ask whether any arrangements are made for Christian missionaries to propagate their religion among the members of the Pallavaram Criminal Settlement?”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I have no information to that effect.”

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to the answer to clause (d), may I take it that the members of this settlement voluntarily embraced Christianity going out of their way from the settlement and seeking light from the missionaries working there? What is the basis of this answer?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The Government have not been asked to make any arrangement in this matter."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask who is in charge of this settlement?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The Salvation Army."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" Are these people in secular charge of the settlement or are they also allowed to preach their religion there?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" They are not prohibited from preaching their religion though they are in secular charge of the settlement."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" May I ask whether the Government have any objection for these people making their own arrangements for religious instruction?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I must ask for notice."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I know whether any other religionists can be allowed to go and preach to them their religion?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I do not think there would be any objection so far as the Government is concerned. But if the question is put to the Salvation Army agents they might object. May I suggest that the best way of testing that would be for some one to make the experiment."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—" May I know why the Salvation Army of all people was put in charge of this settlement?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" They were the only agency who undertook to do the work for us."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Government did not approach other religious preachers."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I do not think the question arises."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—" Is it open to the Salvation Army to preach any other religion?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" They do not preach any other religion. It is on that ground that I suggested to my hon. Friend opposite they might make the experiment of sending preachers of other religions to the settlement."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—" With reference to the answer given by the hon. the Home Member that it is open to the Salvation Army to raise objections to members of other religions going to the settlement and preaching,—supposing they do raise an objection what will be the attitude of the Government?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I am afraid, Sir, we must wait and see."

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ We have waited and seen very many things. With regard to the twelve people who have accepted Christianity, was there any arrangement made for their religious instruction ? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I have no information.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ Is it not a fact that some settlements are in charge of police officers ? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ One settlement in South Arcot is in charge of a police officer.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ Why was it that a non-religious agency was put in charge in this case ? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ We only resorted to departmental management in South Arcot because we could not find a non-official agency to undertake the work. My hon. Friend himself would be the first to admit that a non-official agency in these matters is better than an official agency.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ But any agency would be preferable to a proselytising agency.”

Depressed classes.

Entry of Ezhuvas into the streets of Kalpathy.

* 300 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether during his recent visit to Palghat in connexion with the entry of Ezhuvas into the streets of Kalpathy he consulted the leaders of Ezhuvas; and

(b) whether the Government Order issued on the matter was issued after considering the wishes of the Ezhuvas in the matter ?

A.—(a) & (b) Yes.

11-15 a.m. Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ May I know whether the Government Order issued in the matter has met the wishes of the Ezhuvas ? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I find it rather difficult to answer that question. I have been studying several newspapers and I find a remarkable difference of opinion between one newspaper and another. One newspaper says that order is quite right and others, that it is quite wrong.”

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—“ Although the depressed classes are permitted to enter the Kalpathy agraaharam on business as per the Government Order, the other day when a member of the depressed class entered that street on medical treatment as a doctor as per invitation of a Brahman he was almost being bandied by some Brahmans and he retired. Is it not a wrong treatment of the Ezhuvas by the Brahmans ? ”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“ I am afraid it is hardly a matter in which the Government can take any action. The hon. Member does not say that there was any actual obstruction.”

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Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" Just I want to know from the Government whether the intention of the Government is to prevent the depressed classes whenever they want to pass through agraaharam roads on account of those being short cuts."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I have nothing to add to the terms of the Government Order."

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" I do not quite understand it."

Kalpathy car festival disturbance.

* 301 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that a Malabar Special Force came to Palghat and they were stationed to keep the Ezhuvas, the members of the untouchable classes, out during the time of the recent Kalpathy car festival disturbance; and

(b) if the Government have no information with reference to clause (a), whether they will call for the information?

A.—A section of the Malappuram Special Force was stationed at Kalpathy to prevent a breach of the peace.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—" May I know why a special force was necessary when the people belonging to the depressed classes wanted to pass through highways? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The answer is already on the printed paper. A special force was brought in to prevent a possible breach of the peace."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" May I know whether the special force was brought there before the commencement of the festival or after the order was passed? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" On that I have no particular information, but I take it that it was before the order was passed."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Did the Government or the Divisional Officer anticipate that a breach would take place? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" The Divisional Officer had reasons to think that a breach might take place."

Mr. K. PRABHAKARAN TAMPAN :—" Is it not a fact that a contingent of reserve police force at the time of the car feast is brought every year to guard the Kalpathy agraaharam? "

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—" If the depressed class people behind the Kalpathy agraaharam street want to pass through that street on business and if they are prevented from doing so, will the Government come to their rescue? "

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—" I do not think the Government Order has gone into that detail. It is in general terms."

Rao Sahib P. V. GOPALAN :—" The other day it was stated when an Ezhuva from behind the Kalpathy agraaharam wanted to enter the road, the

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only road, he was prevented from doing so. Suppose the depressed class people want to do likewise in future also, and if they are prevented, will the Government come to their rescue?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I am afraid that is a hypothetical question. I am not responsible for statements made outside this Council."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"May I know whether Government can interfere with the religious rites of Hindus, especially as this is a matter which concerns a festival?"

Forests.

Panchayats for forest subordinates.

* 302 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the report called for by him from the Chief Conservator of Forests in connexion with interpellation No. 1273—vide Council Proceedings, dated 3rd December 1924—has been received; and

(b) if so, whether he will be pleased to lay it on the table of the House?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The Government do not propose to lay the report on the table. The information asked for by the hon. Member is appended.*

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"With reference to the answer given in the latter portion of clause (c), may I know how and why it is not possible to bring under one control both village forest panchayats and class V panchayats?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"My hon. Friend's question is why the Forest department should not have control over the ordinary panchayats. The answer to that is that Government deliberately took away the ordinary panchayats from the control of the Forest officers and it was only the other day that I informed the House that this was done on account of the fact that this House and the people are said not to trust the Forest officers."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"If the work has been handed over to a special panchayat staff, is it not a fact that the ordinary staff would have consequently very much less work to do?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I do not think that can yet be said. It is not a question of handing over certain work. This is entirely new work. In due course we expect as the result of the constitution of the forest panchayats to arrange for the abolition of a large number of forest divisions."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"I am told there are a large number of people who have no work."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"Such cases will be dealt with appropriately and any reduction that is possible will be made."

* Printed as Appendix I on pages 780-781 infra.

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Railways.

Progress of the Pollachi-Udamalpet line, etc.

* 303 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : With reference to the answers to clause (c) of question No. 1156 and to supplementary questions given on 13th November 1924, will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether any progress has been made regarding the consideration of the proposals of the district board of Coimbatore about the Pollachi-Udamalpet line and Erode-Satyamangalam line ?

A.—*Pollachi-Udamalpet railway.*—The Railway Board are arranging to sanction the construction of the Dindigul-Pollachi line from Programme funds.

Erode-Satyamangalam railway.—The matter is now under correspondence with the District Board.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“As regards the first, viz., Udamalpet-Pollachi line, may I know if the Government have received any offer from the Railway Board to acquire the line for the South Indian Railway Company ?”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“I do not think the Government have received any definite offer.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“If the hon. Member had read the newspapers he would have found that the South Indian Railway Company through the intervention of this Government had offered to take over the construction of Pollachi-Udamalpet line.”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“I take no responsibility for statements made outside this Council.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“Anyhow as regards the second, may I request the hon. the Home Member to keep this matter also pending and after the correspondence is over to give me an answer ?”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“I am not sure if there is anything more for me to answer”.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“In the answer it is stated that the matter is under consideration. I wanted to request the hon. the Home Member to try and keep this matter pending ?”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“I am afraid we cannot keep the matter pending. If the hon. Member wants further information he can ask for it.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“I specially referred to the correspondence with the Board and asked whether any progress has been made. The answer is the matter is under correspondence. What I asked was whether any progress has been made as a result of that correspondence.”

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP :—“I do not think my hon. Friend is putting any new question.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“May I remind the hon. the Home Member of the elaborate statement made by Sir Charles Innes—I speak from memory—in which he stated that the proposals to acquire the District Board Railways

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had the approval of the various Local Governments? I am asking whether the Madras Government has been consulted in this matter and what their opinion was about it."

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I am not quite sure. My impression is that Sir Charles Innes stated that the scheme for taking over the District Board Railways had been accepted in certain cases and not by all Local Governments. We have been consulted on the general principle."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I ask the hon. the Home Member whether they really objected to the Tanjore District Board Railway being taken over (it is a very paying line) by the Railway Board when the Government made such a proposal?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I am afraid I have nothing to add to what I have already said."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I am content to draw the inference."

Civil Justice.

Reduction of court fees, etc.

* 304 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to say if the Government have any intention of bringing amending Bills in the near future to reduce the recently enhanced court fees and general stamp charges and if so, when and to what effect?

A.—There is no such intention at present.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"May I know whether there is any proposal to reduce the tax at least by one pie? I want to draw the attention of the Government to the course of the general debate on budget discussion. Last year the income under court fees was 32 lakhs. This year it is 88 lakhs."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"I am afraid there is no immediate prospect of reduction."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"May I ask whether it depends upon financial considerations?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"Upon an examination of the figures which have been made just now?"

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"May I know when those figures will be published?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"As soon as the figures are ready I shall take the opportunity to answer any questions or make a statement."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"May I request the hon. the Law Member to note that the phrase 'as soon as' is a very vague one and see whether he cannot expedite that enquiry as early as possible?"

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The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"As soon as judicial figures are available enabling us to see what the actual revenue for the current year is."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"All that I request is that instead of 'as soon as possible' it may be expedited 'as early as possible'."

Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI :—"May I ask the Government whether they recognize the necessity for publishing these figures in the near future?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"The answer to that will depend very much upon the result of the investigation."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—"May I draw the attention of the Government to the various statements made by them that the anticipated increase under the head of court fees seems not to have been as great as it ought to have been?"

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"The question divides itself into two. There are a certain class of suits such as declaratory suits in which as a matter of policy Government will not go back on the enhancement. So far as certain other classes of suits are concerned, the question of reduction will depend, for instance, in the case of money suits, upon an examination of the figures and whether the institution of suits has been affected and in this class of cases the Government will consider the matter seriously."

Irrigation.

Irrigation tank in Maluvambattu, Tiruvannamalai taluk.

* 305 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether Maluvambattu, a hamlet of Kil Vanakkambadi village in Tiruvannamalai taluk, North Arcot district, was uninhabited until eight years back;

(b) whether it is a fact that some twenty families of Muhammadans and Hindus settled there some eight years back and had the waste lands assigned for cultivation;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is an irrigation tank with broken bund within the said village limits;

(d) whether it is a fact that the tank is included within the reserved forest;

(e) whether it is a fact that one Asankhan and other ryots of the village petitioned the District Collector, the Board of Revenue and the hon. the Revenue Member regarding the repair of the said irrigation tank;

(f) whether it is a fact that the Forest department have no objection to repair the tank and the use of its water for irrigation purposes;

(g) whether it is a fact that more than 30 acres are cultivated 'wet' under the tank even at present, the cultivation at present being with the help of small wells;

(h) whether it is a fact that the Rathapuram tank is supplied with water from Aliar river through a feeder-channel;

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(i) whether any orders have been passed regarding the repair of this tank or allowing the ryots to have the repair done by themselves and if so, whether the Government will be pleased to have the order placed on the table of this House; and

(j) if no orders have been passed, whether he will be pleased to call for a report and pass early orders?

A.—The Government have no information but will call for it.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—“May I ask the hon. the Law Member whether any information has since been received?
11-30 a.m. I was told that some correspondence passed when I visited the neighbourhood recently.”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—“I have not got any papers now on the subject, which will disclose the result of the investigation.”

The Mettur Project.

* 306 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to say—

(a) whether final orders have been passed by the Secretary of State regarding the Mettur project;

(b) whether the Government have any idea of spending any money on acquisition of lands in 1924-25 and 1925-26 and if so, how much;

(c) in view of the damages caused by floods, whether the Government have any objection to arrange for the acquisition of all lands and buildings as early as possible, to pay the prices to the owners and give them some time to build new houses before handing over possession to Government; and

(d) whether the Government have any idea of publishing the whole scheme about the acquisition of the lands and buildings so that people concerned may know the exact position?

A.—(a) Orders are awaited.

(b) Rupees 1.33 lakhs have been proposed in the Budget for 1925-26.

(c) Acquisition cannot be effected until the sanction of the Secretary of State is received.

(d) Preliminary notification will be published in the *Fort St. George Gazette*.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—“May I know why the Government cannot provide for a sum of five lakhs in view of the fact that, as we have already represented, lands have been devastated by floods?”

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—“A sum of 4.71 lakhs is the provision in the next year's budget for this purpose. The acquisition of lands depends largely on convenience.”

Rao Bahadur C. V. S. NARASIMHARAJU:—“May I have the details as to how this sum of 4.71 lakhs is going to be spent?”

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—“I would refer to the written answer to this question.”

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Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ May I have an idea if the Government intend to appoint a special officer ? ”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ That may be necessary as soon as orders are received from the Secretary of State. We shall probably appoint a special officer and the acquisition of lands will then take place. There will be no difficulty to get more money.”

Legislative.

Members of the Legislative Council and contracts with the Government.

* 307 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : With reference to the answers to question No. 1295 and supplementary questions given on 3rd December 1924, will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state if the Government have taken any steps, such as addressing the Chief Engineer and the Members of the Legislative Council, to ascertain which of the Council Members have entered into any contracts with the Government and if so, the result of those steps ?

A.—No.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ May I know the reasons why the Government consistently refuse to liberate the members from this unmerited slur ? Probably many of us do not hold any contracts and I should like to know why the Government will not liberate us from this unmerited slur.”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ In answer to a previous question, I said that if there was any material allegation that at least one member of the Council held a contract, there would be some foundation to start an enquiry. I cannot very well do it merely on the supposition that some may have entered into a contract. If any member informs me that at least one member holds a contract then of course, I will have no hesitation to order an enquiry.”

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—“ Do the Government recognize that there is objection to holding such contracts ? ”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ It is not a question of moral propriety or not. The question is one of fact. Apart from the question of propriety or impropriety which will depend upon the examination of each case, I cannot very well start an enquiry unless there is some foundation for doing so.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ Information is available to us that some members have entered into contracts with the Government ; we do not want to give the information because it may not be correct and some of the members may be offended. The fact that the Government should consistently refuse to make an enquiry, makes it more suspicious.”

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—“ I think I can borrow from the first sentence of the hon. Member in which he says that it will not be decent to give the names. The Government do not wish to inaugurate an enquiry which may be considered to be an insult by the Members of this House. But on the other hand, if hon. Members will take the responsibility for saying, even though they do not give out the names, that members of this House hold contracts, that is a different matter. But hon. Members have not taken that responsibility.”

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"The hon. the Law Member may utilize the C.I.D. to find out the information."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR:—"The hon. Member would be the first to blame me."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"The Chief Engineer may very well be asked and he will be able to give the information."

Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI:—"May I ask the hon. Member from Coimbatore the basis for his information?"

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"The hon. the Law Member has asked me to give the information confidentially and probably I may write to him confidentially."

Executive Council.

Appointment to the Executive Council.

* 308 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state the reasons why a European Member of the Indian Civil Service has been appointed to the Executive Council in violation of the principle laid down by the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Government of India Bill of 1919?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 183.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"The usual answer by reference is given. So far as I recollect now, the answer was that such a principle does not apply to temporary appointments. I am not asking whether there are statutory obligations imposed but whether the Joint Parliamentary Committee have not enunciated certain principles, one of them being that two members should be Indians and two Europeans. I am asking the hon. the Finance Member whether the Government think that they can go behind this principle and not appoint two Indians. I really want to know what the position of the Government is in the matter."

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"The question was why, contrary to the recommendations of the Joint Committee, the Government have appointed a third Member from among the Services while there are already two such Members. That was the former question. The answer was that the appointment in question is a temporary arrangement and the recommendation could not apply. It is obviously undesirable to make a temporary appointment which may be upset by the Secretary of State and may cause considerable heart-burning to the person concerned."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I ask how long this temporary appointment is likely to continue?"

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"I am unable to answer."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Is it likely to continue till Sir Arthur Knapp retires and is it proposed to appoint an Indian afterwards so that he will be the junior Member of the Government?"

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"I have two more years to run."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"I thought he was going to retire."

4th March 1925]

Provincial Civil Service.

*Appointment of Diwan Bahadur R. Ramachandra Rao, C.S.I.,
as Collector of Madras.*

* 309 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Diwan Bahadur R. Ramachandra Rao, c.s.i., a member of the Madras Civil Service, was appointed permanently to the office of Secretary to the Government of Madras in 1917 with the approval of the Secretary of State in Council under section 100 of the Government of India Act on the special representation of the Government of Madras;

(b) whether he continued as Secretary to the Government of Madras till December 1924;

(c) whether he has since that date been posted as Collector of Madras, a post lower in rank and status to that of Secretary to Government;

(d) whether the said posting had the approval of the Government of India and the Secretary of State; and

(e) if not, under what authority the Local Government acted?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) & (c) Mr. Ramachandra Rao was Secretary to Government, Law Department, till 12th April 1924, when he was placed on special duty in the Revenue Department. He continued on special duty (with the exception of the period from 29th May to 28th September 1924 when he was on leave) till 3rd December 1924. He was posted as Collector of Madras and took charge of the office on 4th December 1924. The post of Collector is not lower in rank and status than that of a junior Secretary.

(d) The approval of the Government of India and the Secretary of State was not obtained.

(e) The posting was a matter within the powers of the Local Government.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—“I want to know from the Finance Member with reference to section 100 of the Government of India Act, whether as a matter of fact, Diwan Bahadur R. Ramachandra Rao's appointment was approved by the Secretary of State as required by that section.”

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—“The answer is as in clause (a) of the answer.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—“Then, with reference to clauses (b) and (c) of this question, may I ask the reasons why Diwan Bahadur Ramachandra Rao was posted as Collector when he was acting as Secretary to Government?”

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—“The posting of officers is a matter for the Government's discretion.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—“Is there any case of any Secretary to Government having been posted before now, as Collector?”

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—“There are cases.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—“Of men appointed under section 100 of the Government of India Act?”

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—“I cannot say that.”

[4th March 1925]

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ May I know the reasons why he was asked to go out of the Secretariat ? ”

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—“ There were no exceptional reasons. ”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ Is it because he was considered to be too independent and too nationalistic ? ”

“ With reference to clause (d) of the question, may I ask the hon. the Finance Member whether the question was referred to the Government of India as to whether such officers posted under section 100 of the Government of India Act, can be reverted by the Local Government and the Government of India said, ‘ No you have no such power, ’ and they asked the Local Government ‘ what are the circumstances ? ’ I want to know whether such correspondence went on between the Government of India and the Local Government. ”

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—“ The hon. Member is not correct in his details. ”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ May I ask for correct details ? ”

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—“ No, Sir. ”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ The question is whether the post of Collector is not lower than that of a Secretary to Government and not of a junior Secretary to Government, and the answer restricts itself to a junior Secretary. ”

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—“ A distinction is drawn between the Chief Secretary and the Revenue Secretary (who is now called the second Secretary). All the others are junior Secretaries and they are included in the cadre of Collectors. The order is that they shall not remain in the Secretariat for more than three years. ”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ Does the Collector of Madras get any allowance ? ”

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—“ Yes, he gets allowance. ”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ May I know whether the posting is within the powers of the Local Government and what the rules and sections are, in this matter ? ”

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—“ I cannot refer to the section of the Act at the present moment, but undoubtedly the matter is one within the discretion of the Local Government. ”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ I want to know whether the power to post a gentleman who has been appointed under the Government of India Act and to send him away to a Collector's post is conferred on the Local Government and, if so, under what section. ”

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—“ I cannot say off-hand, but section 46 of the Government of India Act appears to cover the case. ”

Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—“ Is the posting made as a punishment ? ”

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—“ Not necessarily. The rule is that the post of a Junior Secretary to Government shall not be held for more than three years. Ordinarily any officer who has put in three years in the Secretariat reverts as Collector. ”

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Appointment of Diwan Bahadur R. Ramachandra Rao, C.S.I., as Collector of Madras.

* 310 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Diwan Bahadur R. Ramachandra Rao, C.S.I., was appointed Secretary to the Government of Madras in 1917 under section 100 of the Government of India Act with the approval of the Secretary of State in Council;

(b) whether it is a fact that the Government of Madras then made special recommendation that he ought, under special circumstances of the case, to be appointed thereto;

(c) whether Diwan Bahadur R. Ramachandra Rao continued to act as Secretary to the Government of Madras till December 1924;

(d) whether it is a fact that he has since been reverted as Collector of Madras;

(e) whether it is a fact that on reference to the Government of India they have definitely stated that officers appointed to special posts under section 100 of the Government of India Act cannot be reverted to their original appointments and that the question of their unfitness cannot arise as the original appointments are made solely on the special recommendation of the Local Government; and

(f) if so, the reasons for reverting Diwan Bahadur R. Ramachandra Rao to the Collectorship of Madras?

A.—(a) to (d) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 309.

(e) No.

(f) The question does not arise.

Provincial Service officers.

* 311 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is not a fact that the reversion of Diwan Bahadur R. Ramachandra Rao to the Collectorship of Madras has deprived the Provincial Service of one of the three 'listed' high appointments specially reserved for them; and

(b) if so, what steps the Government propose to take to secure to the Provincial Service officers the four posts that had been held by them hitherto?

A.—(a) No.

(b) The question does not arise.

Collectorates.

Increment of pay to unpassed men in the Revenue Department.

* 312 Q.—MR. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that there has been issued a recent B.P. No. 3148, dated 25th July 1924, to the effect that increments of pay

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to unpassed men in the Revenue Department will depend upon the recommendation of the Collector to the effect that he is *personally satisfied* with the work of the clerk ;

(b) whether Government are aware of the difficulty of a District Collector being *personally* aware of a clerk's work individually especially in the case of clerks serving in out-stations and taluk headquarters ;

(c) whether it is a fact that there is no such restriction in the other departments of Government ; and

(d) whether some clerks who had been given increments were made to refund the amounts as a consequence of the issue of the above Board's Proceedings ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The Government do not think that the Collector will have any special difficulty in acquainting himself personally with the character of a clerk's work in particular cases.

(c) & (d) Each head of a department is bound to satisfy himself in the case in question as to the clerk's fitness before exempting him. The Government are not aware what rules other heads of departments have issued for this purpose.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ How can a Collector be personally acquainted with the work of the clerks ? There are a large number of clerks.”

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—“ He may be personally aware of his work and not of the clerk.”

Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI :—“ May I know whether the majority of these clerks are non-Brahmans ? ”

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—“ I do not know.”

Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO :—“ May I remind the hon. the Revenue Member that a Government Order issued by the Law Department says that every man is entitled to rise in the scale of pay ? ”

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—“ I wish to have notice.”

Mr. P. N. MARTHANDAM PILLAI :—“ May I know whether there is a standing order that, in the case of unpassed men, the Collector should be personally satisfied and whether it is the case with all other men ? ”

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—“ There seems to me some misapprehension in this matter. I will explain, if I may. An unpassed man is either exempted for the purpose of holding a post on a certain pay or he is exempted from the operation of the Public Service Notification. In the latter case, there is no bar to his rising to another post for which he is considered to be fit. Where he has been exempted for a particular pay, he cannot rise to a higher pay without special sanction.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ Is it a fact that some Collectors recommended several cases for exemption in certain cases and were censured for recommending such a large number for exemption ? ”

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—“ I do not know, Sir.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ Any how, that is my information.”

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Land Revenue.

Introduction of Land Revenue Bill.

* 313 Q.—MR. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government propose to introduce a Land Revenue Bill in consonance with the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee on the Government of India Bill of 1919;

(b) if so, when; and

(c) if not, the reasons for the delay?

A.—(a) to (c) The hon. Member's attention is invited to the answer to question No. 15.

MR. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Sir, some time has elapsed since this question was answered. May I know from the hon. the Revenue Member the approximate time when he would be able to introduce the Land Revenue Bill?"

The hon. MR. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"Government hope to be able to do so at the August meeting."

Village establishments.

Tanjore District Village Officers' Conference.

* 314 Q.—MR. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received a copy of the resolutions passed by the Tanjore District Village Officers' Conference at Mayavaram (12th January 1924) and South Arcot Village Officers' Conference at Chidambaram (15th December 1924); and

(b) the action, if any, taken on the resolutions by the Government?

A.—(a) Resolutions of the South Arcot Village Officers' Conference held on 15th December 1924 have been received. No resolutions of the first date mentioned have been received from Tanjore.

(b) Several of the resolutions are on the question of cancelling the recent re-grouping of villages. This matter is under consideration. The question of the responsibility of village officers for loss of Government trees has been referred to the Board of Revenue agreeably to the undertaking given in the answer to question No. 1194 at the last session of the Council. The resolutions on other topics have also been considered, but it has not been thought necessary to issue orders thereon.

MR. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"With regard to the question of the regrouping of villages, may I know whether the matter has advanced further since the answer was given in the last session of the Council?"

The hon. MR. N. E. MARJORIBANKS:—"I do not follow that, Sir."

MR. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know whether the matter has advanced any further since the question was last answered in this House?"

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[Mr. R. A. Graham]

"I take it that there is not much complaint about the policy laid down in G.O. No. 658. The complaint is that the visible results have not been sufficient. It must be admitted that the results in some offices and districts have been quite appreciable. As a means of correcting the tendencies of individual patronage, pending the formation of a Public Services Commission, we have constituted the Staff Selection Board which has come in for a great deal of unmerited obloquy, partly because hon. Members do not understand the object of it. The Staff Selection Board does not make appointments. When it was constituted it was instructed to bear in mind the principles laid down in the G.O. No. 658. I have every reason to believe that it has done so. Its function is to make selection from the applicants for Government service so as to ensure that only fit men shall be appointed. It is not part of its duty to see that no Brahman is admitted in the services, nor is that laid down as the duty of any authority. The actual appointing authorities have not been changed; they too are bound by the terms of the Government Order. Where the Staff Selection Board operates, the choice of the appointing authority is limited to the applicants selected by that Board. Unfortunately it has not been possible to extend the operations of the Board all over the Presidency. It has as much as it can to do at present with appointments at headquarters. In the Staff Selection Board lies the answer to the complaint that no member of the depressed classes or other unrepresented classes can now obtain employment in Government service, because owing to local influence his application is always turned down on the ground that he is incompetent. Any person can make his application to the Staff Selection Board. The Board will then satisfy itself whether he is competent and fit to be taken into Government service. If he is, it will include him in its list. And if the appointing authorities still refuse to take him in, then there is reason for complaint against them."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"May I know whether the Board recommends for all grades of appointments?"

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"It does not at present. As I stated, its activities are at present confined to the Madras City. My hon. Colleague informs me that it covers appointments in the Police department all over the Presidency."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"May I ask one question, Sir? Suppose there are hundred applications before the Staff Selection Board from men of all communities and amongst these there are members of the depressed classes who are qualified persons, persons who have passed the B.A. Degree Examination and these persons are selected by the Board along with those of other communities with perhaps B.A. (Hons.) degrees, I want to know whether a chance is given to the men from the depressed classes or educationally backward classes by reason of the Staff Selection Board? Or does the Board merely submit to the Government or the appointing authority a list of all the names and they choose ten or fifteen persons who are most competent. Is a chance also given to the members of the depressed classes or educationally backward communities?"

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"Unhesitatingly I say, yes."

"The Staff Selection Board makes its selections in such a way as to bring forward all members of backward communities who are fit for Government service at all. Of course it would not select or recommend a man with

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Censure on the Chairman, Trichinopoly municipality.

* 316 Q.—Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the G.O. Mis. No. 1771, L. & M., dated 30th June 1924, censuring the Chairman of the Trichinopoly municipality was passed after hearing the explanation of the chairman of the municipality; and

(b) if not, why not?

A.—The order was passed on the report of the Inspector of Local Boards and Municipal Councils based on facts and figures supplied by the chairman or available in the municipal office. The chairman subsequently sent in an explanation and the Government were satisfied that except in regard to a trivial matter the facts were as reported by the Inspector.

Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB:—“Sir, the answer to the question is really evasive. May I ask the hon. the Minister whether an opportunity was given to the Chairman of the Trichinopoly municipality before the Government Order was passed?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“Sir, the question is answered. A special officer was appointed to inquire into the matter and he submitted a report. Upon the report of the officer Government came to a decision. Later on, the chairman of the municipal council submitted his explanation the details of which were on the same lines as the report referred to.”

Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—“Was the chairman given an opportunity to explain before orders were passed?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“Final orders were passed after the explanation of the chairman was received.”

Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB:—“The Government Order was passed on 30th June 1924 and the Inspector of Municipalities came and inspected the municipality in the month of April. The explanation of the chairman was only after the date of the Government Order.”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“Yes; but final orders were passed only after the explanation of the chairman was considered.”

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—“Was the chairman furnished with a copy of the report of the special officer?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“The chairman was furnished with relevant extracts from the report.”

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR:—“Was it before he sent in his explanation?”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—“May I ask the hon. the Minister whether the special officer submitted irrelevant things also in his report?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—“I do not think logic warrants that conclusion.”

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Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—“ Was the report sent to the chairman before the orders were passed or was the order first issued and then the report sent to the chairman ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ Government did not consider it necessary ; because the special officer reported upon the materials available on the spot.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ Did the Inspector of Municipalities take any explanation from the chairman of the council before he sent his report ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ I am not quite sure whether he took any explanation or not. But my impression is that he had the chairman's explanation.”

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—“ Sir, the answer to the question says that an order was passed on the report of the Inspector of Local Boards and Municipal Councils. And the latter portion of it merely says that subsequently the chairman sent in an explanation and the Government were satisfied that except in regard to a trivial matter the facts were as reported by the Inspector. Now the hon. the Minister says that final orders were passed after the explanation of the chairman was received. But the answer refers to only one order which was passed before the explanation of the chairman was received. May I know under what rules Government passed such an order without taking the explanation of the person concerned ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ It is left to the discretion of the Government whether to take explanations or not.”

Rao Bahadur A. S. KRISHNA RAO PANTULU :—“ Is there any precedent in any department of the Government where disciplinary orders have been passed without taking the explanation of the person concerned ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ I am not sure, Sir, when a special officer is appointed to enquire into the matter and when he enquires into the matter carefully and submits a report, whether it is necessary to take further explanation from the person concerned.”

Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB :—“ May I ask why this method was not adopted in the case of the Dindigul municipality ? ”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ May I ask whether final orders were as a matter of fact passed and if so the date of the final orders ? I want to know whether on receipt and consideration of the explanation of the chairman final orders were passed as a matter of fact or whether it is simply a matter of memory. If the final orders were actually passed, what is the date of the orders ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ I cannot remember the date, Sir.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ The number of the Government Order ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ I want notice, Sir.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ Were final orders passed at all ? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ Yes, Sir.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ Did they differ in any material detail from the original orders passed ? ”

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The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ I do not think it necessary to answer that question.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ Was any order passed after the receipt and consideration by the Government of the explanation of the municipal chairman ?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ I have answered that question, Sir.”

Explanation of the chairman, Trichinopoly municipality, on the report of the Inspector of Municipalities.

* 317 Q.—Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have been supplied with explanations by the chairman of the Trichinopoly municipality on the report of the Inspector of Municipalities ; and

(b) whether the chairman of the municipality has been refused to be furnished with copies of a large number of paragraphs from the report of the Inspector of Municipalities ; if so, why he was so refused ?

A.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) Copies of relevant portions of the report were given.

Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB :—“ With reference to the answer to clause (b) stating that the chairman was supplied with copies of relevant portion, may I know whether the chairman was refused to be furnished with the other portions and if so the reason why ?”

Khan Bahadur P. KHALIF-UL-LAH SAHIB :—“ Were the other portions irrelevant ?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ Only those paragraphs which required the explanation of the chairman were sent to him.”

Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB :—“ The whole report related to the administration of the municipality by the chairman and may I know the reasons why only some portions were given and not others ?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ Only such portions on which the explanation of the chairman was found necessary were given to him.”

Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—“ Did the other portions contain confidential aspersions against the chairman ?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ No, Sir. It was considered unnecessary to furnish him with the other portions.”

Mr. P. SIVA RAO :—“ Did they affect him ?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ No, they did not affect him.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ May I ask whether copies of the irrelevant portions also were given to him before final orders were passed ?”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ I should like to have notice of it.”

318 Q.—[Cancelled.]

[4th March 1925]

A new proposal for collection of municipal taxes.

* 319 Q.—Mr. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state and place on the table of the Council—

(a) a comparative statement of the amount of taxes collected during the periods of 1920 to 1922 and 1922 to 1924;

(b) whether there is a proposal or scheme whereby the collection of municipal taxes within the municipalities will be delegated to deputy collectors;

(c) if so, the other proposals in connexion therewith; and

(d) how long this scheme is under the contemplation of the Government?

A.—(a) It is presumed that the hon. Member refers to taxes collected by municipal councils. The councils collected the following amounts of taxes during 1920 to 1922 and 1922 to 1924:—

				RS.
1920 to 1922	...	...	...	81,47,209
1922 to 1924	...	...	...	1,05,24,620

(b) to (d) The Government have no such proposals under their consideration.

Mangalore Taluk Board.

* 320 Q.—Mr. K. RAGHUCHANDRA BALLAL: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether the President of the Mangalore Taluk Board in South Kanara was taken suddenly ill and unconscious in December 1924 and became incapacitated for discharging his duties as president;

(b) whether, during such incapacity of the said president, the vice-president of the said board was performing the president's duties for a few days till the vice-president left Mangalore for Bombay;

(c) whether it is a fact that during the absence of the vice-president, a letter was written purporting to have been communicated by the said president under his facsimile seal authorizing one of the members resident in the Mangalore town to perform all the duties of the president until the latter became free from the said incapacity or until the vice-president returned to Mangalore;

(d) whether it is a fact that such authorization has not been recognized by the Treasury Deputy Collector of South Kanara and that as a consequence all payments of salaries payable to the several establishments under the said board have been withheld causing great distress to the recipients concerned;

(e) whether it is a fact that the said president having died on 7th January 1925 all correspondence addressed to the President, Mangalore Taluk Board, now remains piled up and untouched by the said member whose powers under such delegation have not been recognized;

(f) whether it is a fact that the president of the district board has not made any arrangements for the proper discharge, by any person duly and legally authorized, of the duties of President of the Mangalore Taluk Board;

(g) the reasons for the non-interference of the said district board president in the circumstances of the case; and

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(h) if the said district board president has not yet interfered in the matter and has no intention to do so, whether the Government have any objection to interfere in the matter and appoint a competent person to be the president of the said Mangalore Taluk Board until the board elects a president of its own?

A.—The Government have no information. A report has been called for.

Disallowance of contribution to the People's Flood Relief Fund.

* 321 Q.—Rao Sahib U. RAMA RAO : Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the sum of Rs. 125 sanctioned by the Cocanada Taluk Board for the People's Flood Relief Fund has been disallowed by Government while an equal sum sanctioned by the same body for the Central Relief Fund has been allowed; and

(b) if so, the reasons for this discrimination in treatment?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer to question No. 242.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ May I ask the hon. the Minister whether he could not trust the People's Flood Relief Fund and could trust only the Central Relief Fund? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ I never said I could not trust the People's Flood Relief Fund.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ May I remind him of the answer given last time, Sir? The answer was that there was no guarantee that the amount will be spent on flood relief in South India. May I ask whether the hon. the Minister still holds that opinion? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ I did not say I did not trust the Fund authorities.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ May I ask the hon. Minister to refer to the answer? It distinctly stated, I think I am right except for the articles and prepositions, that the reason why Government disallowed the contributions of certain municipalities to the People's Flood Relief Fund was that there was no guarantee that the amount contributed to the People's Flood Relief Fund will be spent on flood relief in South India. May I know whether it is still the opinion of the Government and if so what are the grounds for holding such an opinion? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ That is a different matter. I said there was no guarantee.”

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ What are the grounds to believe that there was no such guarantee? ”

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL :—“ It is a matter of opinion based on a fact, Sir. Government thought that there was no guarantee.”

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Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"Which is a question of fact, Sir?"

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"That there was no man who was responsible for carrying out the objects for which the funds are asked for."

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"The hon. the Minister is an Indian, Sir. May I ask him whether an ex-Advocate-General and other prominent Indians are people who cannot be trusted to carry out the objects for which funds are being asked? I am surprised."

Mr. P. ANJANEYULU:—"It is merely a subjective phenomena of the Government or are there grounds for arriving at the conclusion?"

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I do not think a question can be addressed in that manner. I have already once given my ruling that it must rest entirely with the Government whether they will give any reason for any action of theirs which is the subject of a question: if they decline to give a reason, they cannot be pressed to state why they decline to furnish a reason."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"May I ask if it is the policy of the Government to prohibit local bodies from contributing to institutions associated or connected with private organizations?"

12 noon.

The hon. the RAJA OF PANAGAL:—"It does not follow from the answers given. It is not the policy of the Government to prohibit any local body from giving any grant to any institution associated or connected with private organizations."

Education.

Pay of teachers under local boards.

* 322 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the scheme abolishing capitation allowance by raising the pay of teachers adequately was given effect to by local boards and municipalities from April 1923;

(b) what are the local bodies that did not give effect to it;

(c) what are the local bodies that did not give at least an equal amount (of capitation allowance) as promotion;

(d) how many local bodies are adopting the scale of pay as fixed in the Government Order;

(e) what are the steps taken by Government to compel local bodies to adopt the scale;

(f) whether Government are not paying to these local bodies contributions calculated according to the scale of pay prescribed in the Government Order; and

(g) if Government have no information, whether they will be pleased to call for the same?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The system of payment of capitation allowance has been abolished by all local boards and municipalities except four. The pay of teachers has been raised either by the grant of a compensatory allowance or by the introduction of a revised scale of pay except in these four local bodies. The local

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bodies that have not adequately raised the pay of the teachers in consequence of the abolition of the capitation allowance are the following :—

Local bodies.	Municipalities.
(1) Salem.	(1) Rajahmundry.
(2) Kanigiri.	(2) Peddapur.

It is however reported that the Taluk Board, Salem, is arranging to enhance the pay of its teachers.—

(d), (e), (f) & (g) It is not clear to which Government Order reference is made.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ Do the Government propose to take any action as regards the four local bodies ? ”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“ They will be allowed to consider the question and adjust their finances.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ If they do not, will the Government take steps to insist upon them ? ”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“ It is very difficult to take any drastic action against any local body because it is local self-government.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ Subject to Government grant. When Government grants are largely given, they should be charitable or forced to pay more to their subordinates.”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“ Unless they have very seriously disobeyed their orders, the Government will be reluctant to interfere with their discretion. But if they fail to discharge their duty after warning, then necessary steps will be taken.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ I wish to know whether any warning has been given ? ”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“ The attention of the local bodies has been drawn to the necessity of attending to the salaries of teachers.”

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—“ Followed by any warning ? ”

Admission of depressed classes in elementary schools under public management.

*323 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN : Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the total number of elementary schools run by public bodies in the Presidency according to the latest statistics obtained by the Government ;

(b) the number of elementary schools out of the total number of schools under public management in the Presidency in which the members of the depressed classes are admitted freely ; and

(c) if the Government have no information whether they will call for the information ?

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A.—(a) The hon. Member is referred to supplemental statistics Nos. 36 and 56 in Volume II of the Report on Public Instruction for 1923-24.

(b) & (c) The hon. Member is referred to G.O. No. 1825, Law (Education), dated 24th November 1924, which contains the particulars available with the Government. Local bodies and the Director of Public Instruction will be instructed to furnish the additional particulars required by the hon. Member when submitting their reports for 1924-25 on the admission of pupils of the depressed classes into schools under public management.

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ With reference to (b) of the question, I find from the Government Order referred to in the answer that the Government themselves are agreed that the local bodies in the South Arcot district as well as in other districts are not co-operating with the inspecting officers in the matter of free admission of pupils of depressed classes. Since they have disobeyed the Government Order, I wish to know from the hon. the Minister for Education whether he is not going to take any stringent measure with reference to withdrawing the grant for such schools.”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“ We advise them to follow the spirit of the Government Order and if they do not follow in making free admission of all classes of boys into the public schools, then the question suggested by my hon. Friend, namely, whether drastic steps should be taken or not in regard to the subsidies given to them, will be considered.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ May I know whether they are now denying admission to members of the depressed classes ? ”

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—“ My information is that they have chosen to abide by the advice of the Government and are willing to admit all classes of boys into the schools. If there is any specific instance where a school managed by a public body has not admitted the boys of the depressed classes, certainly action will be taken against it.”

Mr. R. VEERIAN :—“ May I know whether the policy of the Government is to start separate schools for members of the depressed classes ? ”

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—“ I would deprecate that question for two reasons. As a general rule, questions should not be put about policy. Secondly, we have reached 12 o'clock and we have done only about 23 questions and there are 6 or 7 more. Hon. Members will kindly use some discretion in asking only necessary supplemental questions. Otherwise, I shall be obliged to pass on to the next order of the day.”

Co-operation.

Lending rates of primary societies.

* 324 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that some assistant registrars issued, even prior to March 1924, circulars insisting on the primary societies lowering their lending rates by $1\frac{2}{3}$ th per cent, whereas the financing central bank reduced their rates only by $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent ;

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- (b) whether the Registrar of Co-operative Societies had previously approved of the issue of such circulars;
- (c) in how many and in what districts such circulars were issued;
- (d) whether co-operative societies protested against such action of the assistant registrars;
- (e) whether he will be pleased to give a list of primary co-operative societies in the district of North Arcot which were thus made to reduce their rates of interest by (i) $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per annum, (ii) by $\frac{1}{16}$ th per cent per annum and (iii) $1\frac{9}{16}$ th per cent per annum;
- (f) whether the provincial bank wanted the primary societies to reduce their rates only by $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent per annum; and
- (g) if so, what action, if any, has been taken in the case of assistant registrars in thus coercing primary societies to unduly reduce their rates of interest?

A.—(a) & (c) A conference of representatives of all co-operative financing banks, including the Madras Central Bank and the Provincial Co-operative Conference, discussed the question of reduction in the rate of interest in December 1922. Thereafter the Assistant Registrars brought to the notice of primary societies by circulars and otherwise the resolution of the conference and suggested to them the desirability of reducing the rate of interest.

- (b) The Registrar's previous approval to the circulars was not necessary.
- (d) No.
- (e) The information is not available.
- (f) The Provincial Bank desired primary societies to reduce their rates of interest by at least $\frac{1}{2}$ per cent.
- (g) There was no coercion in the matter. The Government have no reason to think that the reduction in the rate of interest was excessive.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ With reference to (e) of the question, may I know why the information is not available, and what the difficulty in getting it is ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“ The difficulty is in getting tabulated information for about 500 societies.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ The question does not relate to all the societies ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“ It is only by collecting the information from all these 500 societies that we would be in a position to give the required answer.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ With regard to (g), the answer is that there was no coercion in the matter. I understand from a reliable authority that loans were refused to such societies as did not adopt the reduction recommended by the Assistant Registrar. Will the hon. Minister kindly look into the matter ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“ If particulars are given, certainly I shall enquire.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ I believe I have given particulars. If necessary, I have no objection to repeat them.”

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Functions delegated to honorary assistant registrars.

* 325 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state with reference to his answer to question No. 1091, dated 21st October 1924—

(a) whether he is aware of any function delegated to honorary assistant registrars which the members of the existing co-operative unions cannot discharge and if so, what they are;

(b) whether selected members of co-operative unions cannot be authorized to decide arbitration cases and to hold inquiries under section 35 of the Co-operative Societies Act and also whether such a thing is not already done in many instances;

(c) if the answer is in the affirmative, whether there is any need for incurring additional expenditure by Government in appointing honorary assistant registrars;

(d) whether representations have been received by Government from Ramnad district as well as from Madras not to appoint honorary assistant registrars; and

(e) what is the reason for making these appointments in spite of the protests of unions?

A.—(a) The functions of an honorary Assistant Registrar can be discharged by a member of a local supervising union provided he has the necessary leisure, status and means.

(b) There is nothing to prevent the Assistant Registrar from authorizing a member of a co-operative union to decide arbitration cases and to hold inquiries under section 35 of the Co-operative Societies Act. This is actually being done in many cases.

(c) & (e) The question is under the consideration of Government.

(d) A resolution that the appointment of honorary Assistant Registrars in the area of the Banking Union, Srivilliputtur, in the Ramnad district, was not required was passed at a meeting of the representatives of unions in Sattur and Srivilliputtur taluks in February 1924. The Government understand that at the Provincial Co-operative Conference held in December 1924, a resolution was passed recommending the abolition of honorary Assistant Registrars, but that resolutions have been passed by a number of other co-operative bodies urging the continuance of the system.

Speech of hon. Minister for Development at the Guntur District Co-operative Conference.

* 326 Q.—Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state with reference to his answer (d) to interpellation No. 1091 in the Council meeting, dated 21st October 1924, where he stated that non-officialization received much stronger support from 'outsiders'—

(a) whether he could give the names of those 'outsiders' and also publish such opinions; and

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(b) whether he has invited the opinions of the Provincial Bank as well as of the Provincial Co-operative Union and other leading non-official bodies in the Presidency on the matter?

A.—(a) No written representations were received.

(b) The question of relaxation of official control and transference of more responsibility to non-official agency was discussed with the Registrar at a Conference held in 1922 whereat representatives of 24 district banks and 11 local supervising unions were present. The subject was also considered by the Provincial Conference in 1922.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI :—“ With regard to the answer to (a), will the hon. the Minister be pleased to give us the names of the ‘ outsiders ’ who gave that opinion regarding non-officialization ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“ I have kept no note of the names. My general impression is that these outsiders were people unconnected with the actual working of the co-operative societies.”

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—“ May I know whether these strangers or outsiders are elected representatives of any particular bodies entitled to be called non-co-operators or whether they are mere casual visitors ? ”

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI :—“ As I have said already, I kept no note of the names.”

Savings effected by retrenchment.

* 327 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state the amount of the savings effected by retrenchments in accordance with the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee ?

A.—The retrenchments effected up to 11th September 1924 are indicated in the statement appended to G.O. No. 666, Finance, dated 11th September 1924, which was placed on the Council table. Since then, orders have been issued abolishing five temporary weaving parties and three temporary clerks working in the Textile Section. The post of Industrial Chemist and of a clerk and a peon working under him have also been directed to be abolished. The savings as a result of these orders will amount roughly to Rs. 24,000 per annum.

Appointment of Honorary Assistant Registrars.

* 328 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI : Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether his attention has been drawn to the resolution of the recent Co-operative Conference held in Madras (from the 21st to 23rd December 1924) suggesting to the Government the discontinuance of the appointment of Honorary Assistant Registrars ;

(b) the action, if any, taken by the Government thereon ; and

(c) if no action is to be taken, why not ?

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- A.—(a) Yes.
 (b) The question is under consideration.
 (c) Does not arise.

Mr. S. SATYAMURTI:—"May I ask when the Government will be in a position to come to a conclusion in the matter referred to in (b) of the question?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"I do not think that I can make a prophecy; but I can promise that I will expedite the matter."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"May I know what steps the hon. Minister is taking to arrive at a conclusion?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"At present we are receiving information from two opposite sources, one side pressing abolition of honorary assistant registrars and another saying that their continuance is absolutely necessary."

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"I trust the hon. the Minister will not be carried by merely 'the volume of opinions.'"

Honorary Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Credit Society for the Kallars.

* 329 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: With reference to question No. 1431 answered at the meeting of the 5th December 1924, will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether the Government appointed the gentleman to be the Honorary Assistant Registrar of Co-operative Credit Society for the Kallars without making any inquiries whatever about his fitness or otherwise for the post and if the Government have no information whether they will call for it?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to clause (c) of question No. 1149 asked on the 12th November 1924. No appointments of honorary assistant registrars are made without inquiry.

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"May I know whether the particular gentleman is an active member in the co-operative department?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"He was and is."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"I wish to know whether he is at present?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"I think he is."

Mr. R. VEERIAN:—"May I know how many societies have been started by him?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur T. N. SIVAGNANAM PILLAI:—"He was only appointed recently."

UNSTARRED QUESTIONS.

Labour.

Coolies employed in the Nilgiris district.

330 Q.—Mr. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of estates and of coolies employed therein in the Nilgiris;

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- (b) whether qualified medical officers are employed in these estates ;
- (c) whether schools are maintained in these estates ; if so, in how many ;
- (d) how many cases of the coolies running away from the estates have been brought to the notice of the Magistrate ;
- (e) the reasons for their so running away ; and
- (f) whether there is suitable housing accommodation for these coolies ?

A.—(a) The Government have no information as regards the total number of estates in the Nilgiris. The number of coolies employed there is 12,000.

(b) On the larger estates there are hospitals or dispensaries in charge of apothecaries or sub-assistant surgeons. Smaller estates utilize the hospitals in adjoining estates and the services of the medical officers attached thereto.

(c) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to clause (2) of question No. 997 asked at the meeting of the Legislative Council held in October last. There is no information regarding the number of estates in which schools are maintained.

(d) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the statement on page 5 of G.O. No. 793, Law (General), dated the 8th March 1924, which was placed on the Editors' Table.

(e) The Government have no information.

(f) All labourers except members of the jungle tribes are housed free in brick, stone or laterite buildings roofed with tiles or iron.

Forests.

Recruitment to the Indian Forest Service.

331 Q.—Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a notification in the Development Department in the *Fort St. George Gazette* that four officers of the Indian Forest Service have been appointed by the Secretary of State and have arrived at Bombay ;

(b) whether the Local Government made any recommendations for the recruitment of these officers ; and

(c) what the appointments are which have necessitated this recruitment to the Imperial Service from England ?

A.—(a) The notification was issued by the Government in the Development Department.

(b) The Government were consulted as to the number of officers of the Indian Forest Service to be allotted to this Presidency in 1924.

(c) The Indian Forest Service in this Presidency was 13 short of the sanctioned cadre at the end of 1924. The officers in question were recruited to fill four of these vacancies.

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Alleged extortion of money by watchmen of forest reserves in Salem and Trichinopoly districts.

332 Q.—MR. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether Manmalai, Perumbali, Madu, Vellikattuvalas, Mangumalai, Paishurmalai, Kallurandanmalai in the Trichinopoly and Salem districts belong to the forest reserves of Kollimalai and Pachaimalai;

(b) whether the Government have received complaints that the watchmen unlawfully lay hands on the cattle of the villagers and resort to extortion of sums of money; and

(c) whether the cattle have to pass through these hillocks on their way to and from the lands of the villagers who own the cattle?

A.—(a) & (c) The Government have no information.

(b) Yes.

Grazing offences in the Nilgiris district.

333 Q.—MR. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of grazing offences in the Nilgiri district for this year;

(b) whether the Government propose to organize forest panchayat early;

(c) whether Kurumbas are given free lands from the forest; and

(d) whether any representations have been received about their ill-treatment by forest subordinates?

A.—(a) The most recent figures available are for the year 1923–24 during which the number of grazing offences in the Nilgiris was 139.

(b) It is not at present proposed to extend the panchayat system to the Nilgiri district.

(c) The Government have no information.

(d) No.

Railways.

Enhanced railway rates for materials supplied to local bodies.

334 Q.—MR. P. ANJANEYALU: Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the enhanced railway rates for materials supplied to local bodies; and

(b) what steps the Government propose to take to have the same reduced?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The Government cannot interfere in the matter as the rates are within the authorized maxima fixed by the Government of India.

Decision of the Railway Board regarding Light Feeder Railways.

335 Q.—MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: With reference to answers to question No. 1157 and supplementary questions given on 13th November 1924, will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the Government have

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received any communications about the decision regarding the general policy of the Railway Board and if so, to what effect; and if the answer is in the negative, whether the Government have taken any steps to expedite the matter?

A.—The decision of the Government of India is still awaited. They are being reminded.

Civil Justice.

Arrears in the Munsif's Court, Tenkasi.

336 Q.—Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the fact that there are large arrears on the file of the Munsif's Court, Tenkasi, and that, in spite of transfer of several cases to the Munsif's Court at Tinnevely, these arrears continue to exist; and

(b) whether the Government will investigate into this matter and find out whether there is any need for an additional Munsif's Court at the place?

A.—The Government have no information: they will request the hon. the Judges of the High Court to consider the question.

Rules regulating transfer of Sarishtadars, etc.

337 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any Government Order or departmental rule under which persons holding the chief ministerial appointments in civil courts, such as the Sarishtadars of the district courts and sub-courts, are required to be transferred to other courts at least once in five years;

(b) if so, whether he will lay a copy of the same on the table of the Council;

(c) whether the above order or rule has been strictly observed in practice ever since the promulgation of the same;

(d) the reasons with full particulars with reference to the cases where the said order or rule has not been followed or observed;

(e) how long the Sarishtadar of the Coimbatore District Court has been serving in the Judicial Department at Coimbatore; and

(f) from which date he has been serving as the Sarishtadar of the Coimbatore District Court?

A.—(a) & (b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to G.O. No. 721, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 5th July 1917, placed on Editors' Table.

(c), (d), (e) & (f) The Government have no information.

Criminal Justice.

Assault on the first-class Subdivisional Magistrate, Saidapet.

338 Q.—Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 18th of November 1924 one Vajjiravelu, a remand prisoner, assaulted the Subdivisional First-class Magistrate, Saidapet (Mr. T. P. K. Sastry);

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(b) whether the Police searched the prisoner's person before he was taken to the court from the sub-jail;

(c) whether it is true that the prisoner was in remand for over six months and that he alleged this as the motive for the assault;

(d) the nature of the offence with which he was charged which necessitated his detention in jail for such a long period;

(e) whether the Government have satisfied themselves that there was no avoidable delay in the disposal of the case and, if there was any such delay, what action has been taken against the officers at fault;

(f) how many days after the assault the original case against the prisoner was disposed of and by whom;

(g) the punishment awarded; and

(h) whether any prosecution was launched in connexion with the assault and with what result?

A.—(a) & (b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) The charge was house-breaking and theft after a previous conviction. There were 30 prosecution witnesses and the accused made no attempt to engage legal aid for cross examining witnesses till the case was well advanced.

(e) The Government have examined the Court diary and have not found that there was avoidable delay in the disposal of the case.

(f) The assault was on the day when the arguments of the defence were being heard. Judgment was given six days later by the Court.

(g) The first accused was sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 200, in default to further imprisonment for six months—three months of the sentence were to be passed in solitary confinement.

(h) Yes. The accused was sentenced to eighteen months' rigorous imprisonment.

Second-class magistrates and evidence in English.

339 Q.—MR. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether there is a proposal to authorize at least some magistrates of second class in South Arcot district to take down evidence in the English language as has been done in some other districts?

A.—The Government have received no proposals in the matter.

Disposal of petty criminal cases.

340 Q.—MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: With reference to the answer to question No. 1240 given on the 18th November 1924, will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) if the Government have come to any decision on the matter of petty criminal cases and if so, to what effect; and

(b) if no decision has been arrived at yet, whether the Government have passed any interim orders as to the disposal of such petty cases as are not taken cognizance of by the Police and which cannot under the High Court rulings be tried by village magistrates?

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- A.—(a) The matter is under correspondence with District Magistrates.
(b) The Government did not think it necessary to pass any interim orders.

Irrigation.

'Short crop' in the Kistna Western division.

341 Q.—Mr. P. ANJANEYALU: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the Government have received any representations regarding the scheme for 'short crop' in the Kistna Western division;
(b) what action the Government have taken or propose to take thereon; and
(c) whether the Government are aware that this scheme affords irrigation facilities for an area of about 10,000 acres and greatly relieves the distress of the military pensioners and people belonging to depressed classes who are granted lands in the vicinity?

A.—(a) & (b) No.

- (c) An area of about 40,000 acres is available for the extension of early short crop in the Kistna Western division. The question of the extension of short crop irrigation will be considered after the results of the higher shutters now being installed at the Kistna Anicut are known.

Lowering the height of the road in Uthamaseri village, Trichinopoly.

342 Q.—Mr. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

- (a) whether there is a proposal to lower the height of the road by about 3 feet in Uthamaseri village, Trichinopoly, to a length of about $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles and to construct a road dam;
(b) whether the effect of it will not be to submerge nearly thousand acres of rich, wet nanja lands and to render them unfit for cultivation and to demolish and destroy several houses and temples; and
(c) whether any enquiry in the villages affected was made and whether the consent of the villagers affected was obtained before the proposal was approved?

A.—(a) There is a proposal to construct a surplus escape approximately as described.

- (b) The level of the escape has purposely been kept high in order to discharge only exceptional floods.

It is calculated that the escape would have discharged on only 50 days in the past 35 years. The escape is intended to take the place of the existing low bank which has necessarily been kept low as a breaching section to safeguard the Grand anicut works during exceptional floods. The controlled discharge spread out over a considerable length with a small depth is not likely to do serious harm while an uncontrollable breach is dangerous.

(c) No.

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Water-supply for irrigation under Red Hills and Sholavaram tanks.

343 Q.—MR. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether water was supplied for irrigation under Red Hills and Sholavaram tanks for first and second crops from September to February and March to June respectively during the years 1922 and 1923 as required under G.O. No. 205 L., dated 21st May 1908;

(b) when the water-supply for irrigation under Red Hills and Sholavaram tanks was commenced this year, and whether the crops under the Sholavaram tank have not partly suffered owing to the late supply of water from the tank, while the crops under minor irrigation tanks have fared better;

(c) whether the present level of water in the two tanks permitted water being supplied for irrigation this year for the first-crop till the end of February and for the second-crop from March to June, and for how many months under each of these two tanks;

(d) whether, in view of the improvements to be effected, better arrangements are made to secure the rights and privileges of ryots irrigating under these two tanks for supplying water as required under G.O. No. 205 L., dated 21st May 1908, for first crop (from September to February) and for the second-crop (from March to June) regularly; and

(e) whether the Government are aware of any complaints from the ryots irrigating under the Sholavaram tank that their supply is cut off much earlier than under the Red Hills tank, and that water is not properly distributed and regulated between the two tanks?

A.—(a) Water was supplied to the Red Hills and Sholavaram tanks during 1922-23 and 1923-24 as follows :—

	Red Hills tank.	Sholavaram tank.
1922-23	... December 1922—June 1923.	September 1922—June 1923 (with short breaks).
1923-24	... November 1923—April 1924 (with short breaks).	November 1923—March 1924 (with short breaks).

(b) In 1924-25 water is being supplied from 7th December 1924 up to date from both the tanks. Reports show that the crops have not suffered.

(c) Water will be supplied from the Red Hills tank until the level goes down to + 38 or 1st July whichever happens earlier; water from Sholavaram tank will be supplied till the level falls to + 46.64.

(d) Irrigation interests will be safeguarded as far as possible.

(e) Yes.

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Remission of land revenue in Neelamangalam taluk.

344 Q.—Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Kiranoor and Neelamangalam anicuts across the Gomukhi river in Kallakurchi taluk, South Arcot district, are situated close to each other ;

(b) whether the construction of the Kiranoor (upper) anicut has prejudicially affected the irrigation of lands under the Neelamangalam (lower) anicut by considerably diminishing the spring water which the latter have been getting ;

(c) whether it is a fact that in fasli 1333 there was failure of crops in Neelamangalam village ;

(d) the number of applications for remissions made by the ryots of Neelamangalam in respect of the crops for fasli 1333 and the amount covered by them ;

(e) the amount of remission granted ;

(f) the amount for which remission was recommended by the Revenue Inspector of the firka wherein the village is situate and by the Tahsildar of the taluk ;

(g) the amount of arrears outstanding at the end of fasli 1333 for that village ; and

(h) the extent of lands ordered to be sold for the said arrears of land revenue, the amount covered by the sale notification and that actually realized ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) to (h) The Government have no information.

Judicial and Executive Functions.

Proposals for the separation of judicial and executive functions

345 Q.—Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state at what stage the consideration by the Government of the proposals of the committee for the separation of judicial and executive functions is, and when the orders of the Government on the subject are likely to be issued ?

A.—The matter is now under the consideration of the Government of India.

Panchayat Courts.

Judicial panchayats in the Bellary district.

346 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) how many judicial panchayats have been formed in the district of Bellary under the new Act ;

(b) how many suits have been filed in each of them since their formation and how many have been disposed of by them and how many are still pending ;

(c) in how many suits they have executed the decrees passed by them ;

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- (d) whether they have been allotted any funds or given any staff to carry on their work or any process-servers working under them ;
 (e) whether they have been granted any stationery or forms or any contingent charges or any rent for a building for a court-house ; and
 (f) what steps the Government propose to take to remedy this defect ?

A.—(a) 46.

- (b) The annual reports on the working of these courts contain information for the district as a whole ; details for each court are not available.
 (c) The Government have no information.
 (d) Two process-servers on a monthly salary of Rs. 8 each are employed in two courts each having a file of over 200 cases.
 (e) Stationery worth Rs. 15 was supplied in 1923.
 (f) No defects in the working of the courts have been brought to the notice of the Government.

Village Panchayat Court at Rayadrug.

347 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

- (a) whether in the Village Panchayat Court at Rayadrug in the Bellary district 400 to 500 suits have been filed and are now pending without a decision ; and
 (b) whether the non-disposal is due to want of staff for the village court to carry on its work ?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 1448 answered on the 6th December 1924.

Police.*Promotion of two Assistant Superintendents of Police to the rank of District Superintendent.*

348 Q.—Rao Bahadur CRUZ FERNANDEZ : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently decided to promote two Assistant Superintendents of Police to the rank of District Superintendent ;
 (b) whether the Government have also decided to take away two of the Superintendents' posts reserved for the Provincial Service and to confirm the two Assistant Superintendents so promoted as District Superintendents of Police ; and
 (c) whether the Indian Officers Association has protested against the said decision of Government as being in contravention of the declared policy of Government to recruit 11 per cent of the District Superintendents from among the Provincial Service officers ?

A.—(a) Yes.

- (b) The case was a special one, the officers in question having been recruited from the Provincial Service.
 (c) Yes

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Public Works.

Terms offered to contractors for Coleroon bridge at Trichinopoly.

349 Q.—Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU : Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the terms offered to contractors for tendering for materials or for building contract for Coleroon bridge at Trichinopoly ; and

(b) whether the Government will place the notification calling for such tenders on the table of this House ?

A.—(a) The Government have now decided to carry out the work on lump sum contract. The tender will be for the completion of the whole work (masonry and steel work) for a lump sum amount.

(b) Yes, on a receipt of a copy from the Superintending Engineer.

Temporary path in the Cauvery at Srirangam.

350 Q.—Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU : Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the circumstances under which the temporary path in the Cauvery river at Srirangam is being formed before the hot weather at a cost of Rs. 30,000 per annum ; and

(b) the nature of the supervision of the work done, the person by whom the work is done, and the checks imposed for seeing that the amount is properly spent on the work in question ?

A.—(a) No temporary path across the Cauvery at Srirangam was proposed. Presumably the question refers to the temporary roadway across the Coleroon, the bridge across which collapsed in the unprecedented floods of July 1924. Pending the construction of a permanent bridge across the Coleroon, a temporary roadway was found necessary for trade purposes. Moreover, the President, District Board, Trichinopoly, reported that, during summer, the sandy bed of the river is very difficult to be traversed either by foot-passengers or by vehicular traffic owing to the inordinate heat developed by the sand which itself is very loose. Hence the necessity for the construction of a temporary roadway across the river.

(b) The work was done by a company of Sappers and Miners. The Military Engineers were not subject to supervision other than that of the Superintending Engineer who inspected the work in progress from time to time. Payments for work done were made by the Executive Engineer, Trichinopoly division, to the Officer Commanding the company after actual measurements and check of work done.

Proposal for connecting the Cooum and the Harbour.

351 Q.—Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) at what stage is the proposal for connecting the Cooum with the harbour or otherwise making it a tidal river ;

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(b) whether the Committee appointed to consider this question has reported on the matter; and

(c) if so, whether the report has been considered by the Government and any provision has been made in the next budget for starting the scheme?

A.—(a) The proposals are still under the consideration of Government.

(b) Yes.

(c) The question of providing funds in the next year's budget is under consideration.

Public Service.

Recommendations of the Lee Commission.

352 Q.—Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the recommendations of the Lee Commission and in particular to the recommendation regarding the exercise by the Legislative Council of the powers conferred under the Government of India Act regarding enactment of a Public Services Act; and

(b) whether the local Government has applied to the Secretary of State or to the Government of India for the conferment by the Secretary of State of these powers?

A.—(a) & (b) The matter is under consideration.

The Staff Selection Board.

353 Q.—Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) who are the examiners for the examinations held by the Staff Selection Board and who correct the answer papers of the candidates;

(b) the principles followed by the Staff Selection Board in recommending candidates for appointment; and

(c) how the result of the examinations is assessed by the Board in connexion with their choice of candidates?

A.—(a) & (c) These matters are left to the discretion of the Staff Selection Board.

(b) The hon. Member is referred to G.O. No. 76, Public, dated 6th February 1924, which has been laid on the table of the Legislative Council

Conference of the Barbers of the Godavari district.

354 Q.—Mr. B. OBALESAPPA: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state whether the Government have received a copy of the Proceedings of the First Conference of the Barbers of the Godavari district held at Cocanada on 1st October 1924; and if so, whether the Government have taken any action, and if so, what action on the resolution, Nos. 4 to 7?

A.—The answer is in the negative.

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Collectorates.

Time-scale of pay to unpassed men in the Revenue Department.

355 Q.—MR. P. SIVA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to make a full statement of the reasons for not extending the time-scale of pay introduced in the year 1921 to unpassed men employed in the Revenue Department?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 265.

Deputy Collectors.

Deputy Collector in charge of Ramnad division.

356 Q.—MR. B. MUNISWAMI NAVUDU: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. R. Subramaniya Ayyar, Deputy Collector in charge of Ramnad division, was recently transferred to be the Land Acquisition Officer for Virudhunagar-Tenkasi Railway; whether it is also a fact Mr. N. Koil Pillai, a senior Deputy Collector, was posted to that division and had actually gone to Ramnad to take over charge;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said Mr. Subramaniya Ayyar received telegraphic orders cancelling his transfer and Mr. D. Manikkam Pillai, an Indian Christian Deputy Collector of Devakottai, senior to Mr. Ayyar, was transferred to land acquisition duty; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Mr. Koil Pillai was asked to go to Devakottai after he had reached Ramnad and why this extraordinary step was taken in favour of the junior Deputy Collector Mr. Ayyar?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 142.

Settlement.

Re-settlement rates in the western taluks of the Bellary district.

357 Q.—MR. P. SIVA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether the resolution passed by the Legislative Council in the beginning of December 1924 regarding the re-settlement rates in the western taluks of the Bellary district has been considered by the Government and final orders passed thereon; if so, whether he will place them on the table?

A.—The question is engaging the attention of Government.

Local Boards and Municipal Councils.

Proposal of a paid chairman for the Trichinopoly municipality.

358 Q.—MR. MUHAMMAD GHUSE MIAN SAHIB: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government proposed to appoint a full-time and paid chairman for the municipality of Trichinopoly; if so, when and on what salary?

A.—The answer is in the negative.

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Proposal for amending the District Municipalities Act.

359 Q.—MR. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the Government are proposing to amend the District Municipalities Act on a model with the Madras City Corporation Act?

A.—The answer is in the negative.

Nomination of barbers community and washermen caste to local boards and municipalities.

360 Q.—MR. B. OBALESAPPA: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table a list showing—

(a) the total number of members belonging to the barbers community nominated to all the union boards, taluk boards, district boards and municipalities;

(b) the total number of members belonging to the washermen caste in all the local boards and municipalities; and

(c) if the Government have no information, whether the Government will please call for the information?

A.—(a) & (b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the Annual Civil List, 1925, which contains the names of persons appointed as members of district boards and municipal councils. Information is not readily available as to how many of these persons are 'barbers or washermen, nor have Government information about members of taluk or union boards.

(c) The Government do not consider it necessary to call for the information.

Exemption of co-operative societies from profession-tax, etc.

361 Q.—MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: With reference to the answer given on the 4th December 1924 to question No. 1376, will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state if the question of exempting co-operative societies from payment of fees under the Companies Act and of profession-tax has been decided, and if so, to what effect?

A.—The question is still under the consideration of the Government.

Medical.*Qualified practitioners under the new rural medical scheme.*

362 Q.—MR. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the taluk board presidents will be at liberty to appoint qualified practitioners of proved merit in the indigenous systems of medicine to serve in dispensaries under the new rural medical scheme?

A.—The answer is in the negative.

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Public Works.

Extension of railway bridges over the Pedda Hagari river.

363 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the scheme for the extension of the railway bridges over the Pedda Hagari river so as to admit of ordinary vehicular traffic has been sanctioned by the Government; if so, at what cost and whether the whole cost will be borne by the Government;

(b) whether the work is in progress and when it is likely to be completed; and

(c) whether there is urgent and imperative need for the construction of a bridge for crossing the Chinna Hagari river at the village of Hagari Bommanahalli in the Hadagalli taluk in the Bellary district?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 1530 included in the official report of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council of the 6th December 1924, with reference to the announcement of the hon. the President on the 4th December 1924.

Education.

Boarding and lodging facilities for non-Brahman students in the Teachers' College, Saidapet.

364 Q.—Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette* by the Principal of the Teachers' College, Saidapet, stating that non-Brahman students must make their own arrangements about meals but that Brahman students have got boarding and lodging facilities;

(b) the reason for this distinction and why it is not possible to make similar arrangements for non-Brahman students also;

(c) the number of students in the Teachers' College including the L.T. and Secondary grade teachers; and

(d) if the number of non-Brahman students is small, whether any difficulty is experienced in providing them with the same meals which is available to the Brahman students as is done in the Victoria Hostel?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The reason is that the number of non-Brahman students in the past has been very small, but in practice, the college authorities do make provision for students other than Brahmans and offer them full facilities.

(c) The number of students in the hostel [which is presumably what the hon. Member means under item (c)] is 93.

(d) In the case of any non-Brahman student so desiring, no difficulty would be experienced in providing him with the same meals as the Brahman students. There are instances in which this has been done. Generally non-Brahmans prefer their own

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messes of which this year there are eight in all. These consist of small groups of students from different parts of the Presidency who at their own request run their messes.

Establishment of a lower secondary school in Stonehousepet, Nellore.

365 Q.—Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Director of Public Instruction refused to sanction the establishment of a lower secondary school in Stonehousepet in Nellore municipality even though the Municipal Council of Nellore was prepared to bear the entire net cost of it;

(b) if so, the reasons for the refusal; and

(c) whether it is not also a fact that the proposal of establishing the said school was approved by the Municipal Council, District Educational Officer and the District Secondary Education Board of Nellore?

A.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The reasons are set forth in the Director of Public Instruction's Endorsement R.O.C. No. 1019-B/24, dated 23rd September 1924, a copy of which is laid on the table.^a

(c) The answer is in the affirmative.

Veterinary.

Veterinary dispensary in Kistna district.

366 Q.—Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that in Kistna district every taluk has been provided with a veterinary dispensary this year;

(b) if so, the cost of the new arrangements; and

(c) why the same sort of consideration has not been shown to Nellore district which is considered to be a cattle centre?

A.—(a) No such arrangement has yet been sanctioned.

(b) & (c) Do not arise.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—“As we have agreed to rise early to-day, that is, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, I propose that the House should go on without rising formally for lunch. That will compensate for the loss of the extra hour without our having trespass on some other day for that purpose.”

II

THE COCHIN PORT TRUST BILL.

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—“Sir, I am perfectly prepared to go on with this business but I think there is a feeling entertained on the part of some hon. Members here that the time allotted for the discussion of the budget should not be encroached upon. If therefore hon. Members prefer

^a Printed as Appendix III on pages 781-782 infra.

* An asterisk at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.

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[Mr. R. A. Graham]

that this matter may be postponed till the 30th of this month, I shall have no objection. I formally move for the adjournment of this item to the 30th of March."

Diwan Babadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I second the motion."

The motion was put and carried. The discussion of the Bill was postponed to the 30th of March or such other date as might be fixed later on,

III

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Before we proceed to the next order of the day, the general discussion of the budget, I should like to mention that under sub-rule (iii) of rule 28 of the Legislative Council Rules, I have fixed, according to the practice hitherto followed, a time-limit of 15 minutes for each hon. Member's speech during that discussion. The afternoon of the third day will be at the disposal of hon. Members of the Government to make their replies."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" May I know, Sir, if the calendar of voting of grants has been settled ? "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have just received a message from His Excellency the Governor on the subject and I have had hardly time to read it in the intervals of our discussion. I promise to let hon. Members know about it this afternoon."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" Is it a final one or a preliminary one that has been sent for your consideration ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I believe it has been sent to me for opinion, but I will let hon. Members know all about it in due course."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" May I request you, Sir, to consult the Leader of the Opposition before you send your opinion ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Yes ; I mean to consult him ; and further I mean to put the whole matter before the House."

" I should mention now that I was sorry to have had to pass over a number of hon. Members last year at the general discussion of the budget ; and if any of those hon. Members wish to have an early chance this time, I should like to give them precedence."

* Mr. P. O. VENKATAPATI RAJU :—" Mr. President, Sir, the hon. the Finance Member, I hope, will not be surprised if I say that the budget presented by him is both disappointing and unsatisfactory. It is not unsatisfactory simply because it is a deficit budget. Even deficit budgets can be satisfactory if the deficit is the result of causes which are beyond human control. But if the Government did not take precautions to observe strict economy in the administration and effect retrenchment in all directions, it cannot be called wise. We find in this budget that great sums of money are provided for maintaining useless institutions and posts. Great sums of money are provided to be wasted on erection of public buildings which have no utility commensurate with the expenditure which is involved in their construction and which will certainly be involved in their maintenance hereafter. The increase in the cost of Government without meeting the growing needs of the nation—developing departments calls for the severest condemnation. The

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- (b) whether qualified medical officers are employed in these estates ;
- (c) whether schools are maintained in these estates ; if so, in how many ;
- (d) how many cases of the coolies running away from the estates have been brought to the notice of the Magistrate ;
- (e) the reasons for their so running away ; and
- (f) whether there is suitable housing accommodation for these coolies ?

A.—(a) The Government have no information as regards the total number of estates in the Nilgiris. The number of coolies employed there is 12,000.

(b) On the larger estates there are hospitals or dispensaries in charge of apothecaries or sub-assistant surgeons. Smaller estates utilize the hospitals in adjoining estates and the services of the medical officers attached thereto.

(c) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to clause (2) of question No. 997 asked at the meeting of the Legislative Council held in October last. There is no information regarding the number of estates in which schools are maintained.

(d) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the statement on page 5 of G.O. No. 793, Law (General), dated the 8th March 1924, which was placed on the Editors' Table.

(e) The Government have no information.

(f) All labourers except members of the jungle tribes are housed free in brick, stone or laterite buildings roofed with tiles or iron.

Forests.

Recruitment to the Indian Forest Service.

331 Q.—Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU : Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to a notification in the Development Department in the *Fort St. George Gazette* that four officers of the Indian Forest Service have been appointed by the Secretary of State and have arrived at Bombay ;

(b) whether the Local Government made any recommendations for the recruitment of these officers ; and

(c) what the appointments are which have necessitated this recruitment to the Imperial Service from England ?

A.—(a) The notification was issued by the Government in the Development Department.

(b) The Government were consulted as to the number of officers of the Indian Forest Service to be allotted to this Presidency in 1924.

(c) The Indian Forest Service in this Presidency was 13 short of the sanctioned cadre at the end of 1924. The officers in question were recruited to fill four of these vacancies.

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Alleged extortion of money by watchmen of forest reserves in Salem and Trichinopoly districts.

332 Q.—MR. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether Manmalai, Perumbali, Madu, Vellikattuvalas, Mangumalai, Paishurmalai, Kallurandanmalai in the Trichinopoly and Salem districts belong to the forest reserves of Kollimalai and Pachaimalai;

(b) whether the Government have received complaints that the watchmen unlawfully lay hands on the cattle of the villagers and resort to extortion of sums of money; and

(c) whether the cattle have to pass through these hillocks on their way to and from the lands of the villagers who own the cattle?

A.—(a) & (c) The Government have no information.

(b) Yes.

Grazing offences in the Nilgiris district.

333 Q.—MR. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of grazing offences in the Nilgiri district for this year;

(b) whether the Government propose to organize forest panchayat early;

(c) whether Kurumbas are given free lands from the forest; and

(d) whether any representations have been received about their ill-treatment by forest subordinates?

A.—(a) The most recent figures available are for the year 1923–24 during which the number of grazing offences in the Nilgiris was 139.

(b) It is not at present proposed to extend the panchayat system to the Nilgiri district.

(c) The Government have no information.

(d) No.

Railways.

Enhanced railway rates for materials supplied to local bodies.

334 Q.—MR. P. ANJANEYALU: Will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(a) whether he is aware of the enhanced railway rates for materials supplied to local bodies; and

(b) what steps the Government propose to take to have the same reduced?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The Government cannot interfere in the matter as the rates are within the authorized maxima fixed by the Government of India.

Decision of the Railway Board regarding Light Feeder Railways.

335 Q.—MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: With reference to answers to question No. 1157 and supplementary questions given on 13th November 1924, will the hon. the Home Member and the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the Government have

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received any communications about the decision regarding the general policy of the Railway Board and if so, to what effect; and if the answer is in the negative, whether the Government have taken any steps to expedite the matter?

A.—The decision of the Government of India is still awaited. They are being reminded.

Civil Justice.

Arrears in the Munsif's Court, Tenkasi.

336 Q.—Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the fact that there are large arrears on the file of the Munsif's Court, Tenkasi, and that, in spite of transfer of several cases to the Munsif's Court at Tinnevely, these arrears continue to exist; and

(b) whether the Government will investigate into this matter and find out whether there is any need for an additional Munsif's Court at the place?

A.—The Government have no information: they will request the hon. the Judges of the High Court to consider the question.

Rules regulating transfer of Sarishtadars, etc.

337 Q.—Mr. R. VEERIAN: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether there is any Government Order or departmental rule under which persons holding the chief ministerial appointments in civil courts, such as the Sarishtadars of the district courts and sub-courts, are required to be transferred to other courts at least once in five years;

(b) if so, whether he will lay a copy of the same on the table of the Council;

(c) whether the above order or rule has been strictly observed in practice ever since the promulgation of the same;

(d) the reasons with full particulars with reference to the cases where the said order or rule has not been followed or observed;

(e) how long the Sarishtadar of the Coimbatore District Court has been serving in the Judicial Department at Coimbatore; and

(f) from which date he has been serving as the Sarishtadar of the Coimbatore District Court?

A.—(a) & (b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to G.O. No. 721, Home (Miscellaneous), dated 5th July 1917, placed on Editors' Table.

(c), (d), (e) & (f) The Government have no information.

Criminal Justice.

Assault on the first-class Subdivisional Magistrate, Saidapet.

338 Q.—Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that on the 18th of November 1924 one Vajjiravelu, a remand prisoner, assaulted the Subdivisional First-class Magistrate, Saidapet (Mr. T. P. K. Sastry);

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(b) whether the Police searched the prisoner's person before he was taken to the court from the sub-jail;

(c) whether it is true that the prisoner was in remand for over six months and that he alleged this as the motive for the assault;

(d) the nature of the offence with which he was charged which necessitated his detention in jail for such a long period;

(e) whether the Government have satisfied themselves that there was no avoidable delay in the disposal of the case and, if there was any such delay, what action has been taken against the officers at fault;

(f) how many days after the assault the original case against the prisoner was disposed of and by whom;

(g) the punishment awarded; and

(h) whether any prosecution was launched in connexion with the assault and with what result?

A.—(a) & (b) Yes.

(c) No.

(d) The charge was house-breaking and theft after a previous conviction. There were 30 prosecution witnesses and the accused made no attempt to engage legal aid for cross examining witnesses till the case was well advanced.

(e) The Government have examined the Court diary and have not found that there was avoidable delay in the disposal of the case.

(f) The assault was on the day when the arguments of the defence were being heard. Judgment was given six days later by the Court.

(g) The first accused was sentenced to two years' rigorous imprisonment and a fine of Rs. 200, in default to further imprisonment for six months—three months of the sentence were to be passed in solitary confinement.

(h) Yes. The accused was sentenced to eighteen months' rigorous imprisonment.

Second-class magistrates and evidence in English.

339 Q.—MR. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state whether there is a proposal to authorize at least some magistrates of second class in South Arcot district to take down evidence in the English language as has been done in some other districts?

A.—The Government have received no proposals in the matter.

Disposal of petty criminal cases.

340 Q.—MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: With reference to the answer to question No. 1240 given on the 18th November 1924, will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) if the Government have come to any decision on the matter of petty criminal cases and if so, to what effect; and

(b) if no decision has been arrived at yet, whether the Government have passed any interim orders as to the disposal of such petty cases as are not taken cognizance of by the Police and which cannot under the High Court rulings be tried by village magistrates?

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- A.—(a) The matter is under correspondence with District Magistrates.
(b) The Government did not think it necessary to pass any interim orders.

Irrigation.

'Short crop' in the Kistna Western division.

341 Q.—Mr. P. ANJANEYALU: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

- (a) whether the Government have received any representations regarding the scheme for 'short crop' in the Kistna Western division;
(b) what action the Government have taken or propose to take thereon; and
(c) whether the Government are aware that this scheme affords irrigation facilities for an area of about 10,000 acres and greatly relieves the distress of the military pensioners and people belonging to depressed classes who are granted lands in the vicinity?

A.—(a) & (b) No.

- (c) An area of about 40,000 acres is available for the extension of early short crop in the Kistna Western division. The question of the extension of short crop irrigation will be considered after the results of the higher shutters now being installed at the Kistna Anicut are known.

Lowering the height of the road in Uthamaseri village, Trichinopoly.

342 Q.—Mr. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

- (a) whether there is a proposal to lower the height of the road by about 3 feet in Uthamaseri village, Trichinopoly, to a length of about $1\frac{1}{4}$ miles and to construct a road dam;
(b) whether the effect of it will not be to submerge nearly thousand acres of rich, wet nanja lands and to render them unfit for cultivation and to demolish and destroy several houses and temples; and
(c) whether any enquiry in the villages affected was made and whether the consent of the villagers affected was obtained before the proposal was approved?

A.—(a) There is a proposal to construct a surplus escape approximately as described.

- (b) The level of the escape has purposely been kept high in order to discharge only exceptional floods.

It is calculated that the escape would have discharged on only 50 days in the past 35 years. The escape is intended to take the place of the existing low bank which has necessarily been kept low as a breaching section to safeguard the Grand anicut works during exceptional floods. The controlled discharge spread out over a considerable length with a small depth is not likely to do serious harm while an uncontrollable breach is dangerous.

(c) No.

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Water-supply for irrigation under Red Hills and Sholavaram tanks.

343 Q.—MR. S. SATYAMURTI: Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether water was supplied for irrigation under Red Hills and Sholavaram tanks for first and second crops from September to February and March to June respectively during the years 1922 and 1923 as required under G.O. No. 205 L., dated 21st May 1908;

(b) when the water-supply for irrigation under Red Hills and Sholavaram tanks was commenced this year, and whether the crops under the Sholavaram tank have not partly suffered owing to the late supply of water from the tank, while the crops under minor irrigation tanks have fared better;

(c) whether the present level of water in the two tanks permitted water being supplied for irrigation this year for the first-crop till the end of February and for the second-crop from March to June, and for how many months under each of these two tanks;

(d) whether, in view of the improvements to be effected, better arrangements are made to secure the rights and privileges of ryots irrigating under these two tanks for supplying water as required under G.O. No. 205 L., dated 21st May 1908, for first crop (from September to February) and for the second-crop (from March to June) regularly; and

(e) whether the Government are aware of any complaints from the ryots irrigating under the Sholavaram tank that their supply is cut off much earlier than under the Red Hills tank, and that water is not properly distributed and regulated between the two tanks?

A.—(a) Water was supplied to the Red Hills and Sholavaram tanks during 1922-23 and 1923-24 as follows :—

	Red Hills tank.	Sholavaram tank.
1922-23	... December 1922—June 1923.	September 1922—June 1923 (with short breaks).
1923-24	... November 1923—April 1924 (with short breaks).	November 1923—March 1924 (with short breaks).

(b) In 1924-25 water is being supplied from 7th December 1924 up to date from both the tanks. Reports show that the crops have not suffered.

(c) Water will be supplied from the Red Hills tank until the level goes down to + 38 or 1st July whichever happens earlier; water from Sholavaram tank will be supplied till the level falls to + 46.64.

(d) Irrigation interests will be safeguarded as far as possible.

(e) Yes.

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Remission of land revenue in Neelamangalam taluk.

344 Q.—Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Kiranoor and Neelamangalam anicuts across the Gomukhi river in Kallakurchi taluk, South Arcot district, are situated close to each other ;

(b) whether the construction of the Kiranoor (upper) anicut has prejudicially affected the irrigation of lands under the Neelamangalam (lower) anicut by considerably diminishing the spring water which the latter have been getting ;

(c) whether it is a fact that in fasli 1333 there was failure of crops in Neelamangalam village ;

(d) the number of applications for remissions made by the ryots of Neelamangalam in respect of the crops for fasli 1333 and the amount covered by them ;

(e) the amount of remission granted ;

(f) the amount for which remission was recommended by the Revenue Inspector of the firka wherein the village is situate and by the Tahsildar of the taluk ;

(g) the amount of arrears outstanding at the end of fasli 1333 for that village ; and

(h) the extent of lands ordered to be sold for the said arrears of land revenue, the amount covered by the sale notification and that actually realized ?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) to (h) The Government have no information.

Judicial and Executive Functions.

Proposals for the separation of judicial and executive functions

345 Q.—Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state at what stage the consideration by the Government of the proposals of the committee for the separation of judicial and executive functions is, and when the orders of the Government on the subject are likely to be issued ?

A.—The matter is now under the consideration of the Government of India.

Panchayat Courts.

Judicial panchayats in the Bellary district.

346 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) how many judicial panchayats have been formed in the district of Bellary under the new Act ;

(b) how many suits have been filed in each of them since their formation and how many have been disposed of by them and how many are still pending ;

(c) in how many suits they have executed the decrees passed by them ;

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- (d) whether they have been allotted any funds or given any staff to carry on their work or any process-servers working under them ;
 (e) whether they have been granted any stationery or forms or any contingent charges or any rent for a building for a court-house ; and
 (f) what steps the Government propose to take to remedy this defect ?

A.—(a) 46.

- (b) The annual reports on the working of these courts contain information for the district as a whole ; details for each court are not available.
 (c) The Government have no information.
 (d) Two process-servers on a monthly salary of Rs. 8 each are employed in two courts each having a file of over 200 cases.
 (e) Stationery worth Rs. 15 was supplied in 1923.
 (f) No defects in the working of the courts have been brought to the notice of the Government.

Village Panchayat Court at Rayadrug.

347 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

- (a) whether in the Village Panchayat Court at Rayadrug in the Bellary district 400 to 500 suits have been filed and are now pending without a decision ; and
 (b) whether the non-disposal is due to want of staff for the village court to carry on its work ?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 1448 answered on the 6th December 1924.

Police.*Promotion of two Assistant Superintendents of Police to the rank of District Superintendent.*

348 Q.—Rao Bahadur CRUZ FERNANDEZ : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

- (a) whether it is a fact that Government have recently decided to promote two Assistant Superintendents of Police to the rank of District Superintendent ;
 (b) whether the Government have also decided to take away two of the Superintendents' posts reserved for the Provincial Service and to confirm the two Assistant Superintendents so promoted as District Superintendents of Police ; and
 (c) whether the Indian Officers Association has protested against the said decision of Government as being in contravention of the declared policy of Government to recruit 11 per cent of the District Superintendents from among the Provincial Service officers ?

A.—(a) Yes.

- (b) The case was a special one, the officers in question having been recruited from the Provincial Service.
 (c) Yes

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Public Works.

Terms offered to contractors for Coleroon bridge at Trichinopoly.

349 Q.—Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU : Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the terms offered to contractors for tendering for materials or for building contract for Coleroon bridge at Trichinopoly ; and

(b) whether the Government will place the notification calling for such tenders on the table of this House ?

A.—(a) The Government have now decided to carry out the work on lump sum contract. The tender will be for the completion of the whole work (masonry and steel work) for a lump sum amount.

(b) Yes, on a receipt of a copy from the Superintending Engineer.

Temporary path in the Cauvery at Srirangam.

350 Q.—Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU : Will the hon. the Law Member and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) the circumstances under which the temporary path in the Cauvery river at Srirangam is being formed before the hot weather at a cost of Rs. 30,000 per annum ; and

(b) the nature of the supervision of the work done, the person by whom the work is done, and the checks imposed for seeing that the amount is properly spent on the work in question ?

A.—(a) No temporary path across the Cauvery at Srirangam was proposed. Presumably the question refers to the temporary roadway across the Coleroon, the bridge across which collapsed in the unprecedented floods of July 1924. Pending the construction of a permanent bridge across the Coleroon, a temporary roadway was found necessary for trade purposes. Moreover, the President, District Board, Trichinopoly, reported that, during summer, the sandy bed of the river is very difficult to be traversed either by foot-passengers or by vehicular traffic owing to the inordinate heat developed by the sand which itself is very loose. Hence the necessity for the construction of a temporary roadway across the river.

(b) The work was done by a company of Sappers and Miners. The Military Engineers were not subject to supervision other than that of the Superintending Engineer who inspected the work in progress from time to time. Payments for work done were made by the Executive Engineer, Trichinopoly division, to the Officer Commanding the company after actual measurements and check of work done.

Proposal for connecting the Cooum and the Harbour.

351 Q.—Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU : Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) at what stage is the proposal for connecting the Cooum with the harbour or otherwise making it a tidal river ;

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(b) whether the Committee appointed to consider this question has reported on the matter; and

(c) if so, whether the report has been considered by the Government and any provision has been made in the next budget for starting the scheme?

A.—(a) The proposals are still under the consideration of Government.

(b) Yes.

(c) The question of providing funds in the next year's budget is under consideration.

Public Service.

Recommendations of the Lee Commission.

352 Q.—Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the recommendations of the Lee Commission and in particular to the recommendation regarding the exercise by the Legislative Council of the powers conferred under the Government of India Act regarding enactment of a Public Services Act; and

(b) whether the local Government has applied to the Secretary of State or to the Government of India for the conferment by the Secretary of State of these powers?

A.—(a) & (b) The matter is under consideration.

The Staff Selection Board.

353 Q.—Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state—

(a) who are the examiners for the examinations held by the Staff Selection Board and who correct the answer papers of the candidates;

(b) the principles followed by the Staff Selection Board in recommending candidates for appointment; and

(c) how the result of the examinations is assessed by the Board in connexion with their choice of candidates?

A.—(a) & (c) These matters are left to the discretion of the Staff Selection Board.

(b) The hon. Member is referred to G.O. No. 76, Public, dated 6th February 1924, which has been laid on the table of the Legislative Council

Conference of the Barbers of the Godavari district.

354 Q.—Mr. B. OBALESAPPA: Will the hon. the Member for Finance be pleased to state whether the Government have received a copy of the Proceedings of the First Conference of the Barbers of the Godavari district held at Cocanada on 1st October 1924; and if so, whether the Government have taken any action, and if so, what action on the resolution, Nos. 4 to 7?

A.—The answer is in the negative.

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Collectorates.

Time-scale of pay to unpassed men in the Revenue Department.

355 Q.—MR. P. SIVA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to make a full statement of the reasons for not extending the time-scale of pay introduced in the year 1921 to unpassed men employed in the Revenue Department?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 265.

Deputy Collectors.

Deputy Collector in charge of Ramnad division.

356 Q.—MR. B. MUNISWAMI NAVUDU: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that Mr. R. Subramaniya Ayyar, Deputy Collector in charge of Ramnad division, was recently transferred to be the Land Acquisition Officer for Virudhunagar-Tenkasi Railway; whether it is also a fact Mr. N. Koil Pillai, a senior Deputy Collector, was posted to that division and had actually gone to Ramnad to take over charge;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said Mr. Subramaniya Ayyar received telegraphic orders cancelling his transfer and Mr. D. Manikkam Pillai, an Indian Christian Deputy Collector of Devakottai, senior to Mr. Ayyar, was transferred to land acquisition duty; and

(c) whether it is a fact that Mr. Koil Pillai was asked to go to Devakottai after he had reached Ramnad and why this extraordinary step was taken in favour of the junior Deputy Collector Mr. Ayyar?

A.—The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 142.

Settlement.

Re-settlement rates in the western taluks of the Bellary district.

357 Q.—MR. P. SIVA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether the resolution passed by the Legislative Council in the beginning of December 1924 regarding the re-settlement rates in the western taluks of the Bellary district has been considered by the Government and final orders passed thereon; if so, whether he will place them on the table?

A.—The question is engaging the attention of Government.

Local Boards and Municipal Councils.

Proposal of a paid chairman for the Trichinopoly municipality.

358 Q.—MR. MUHAMMAD GHUSE MIAN SAHIB: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Government proposed to appoint a full-time and paid chairman for the municipality of Trichinopoly; if so, when and on what salary?

A.—The answer is in the negative.

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Proposal for amending the District Municipalities Act.

359 Q.—MR. MUHAMMAD GHOUSE MIAN SAHIB: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the Government are proposing to amend the District Municipalities Act on a model with the Madras City Corporation Act?

A.—The answer is in the negative.

Nomination of barbers community and washermen caste to local boards and municipalities.

360 Q.—MR. B. OBALESAPPA: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to lay on the table a list showing—

(a) the total number of members belonging to the barbers community nominated to all the union boards, taluk boards, district boards and municipalities;

(b) the total number of members belonging to the washermen caste in all the local boards and municipalities; and

(c) if the Government have no information, whether the Government will please call for the information?

A.—(a) & (b) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the Annual Civil List, 1925, which contains the names of persons appointed as members of district boards and municipal councils. Information is not readily available as to how many of these persons are 'barbers or washermen, nor have Government information about members of taluk or union boards.

(c) The Government do not consider it necessary to call for the information.

Exemption of co-operative societies from profession-tax, etc.

361 Q.—MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: With reference to the answer given on the 4th December 1924 to question No. 1376, will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state if the question of exempting co-operative societies from payment of fees under the Companies Act and of profession-tax has been decided, and if so, to what effect?

A.—The question is still under the consideration of the Government.

Medical.*Qualified practitioners under the new rural medical scheme.*

362 Q.—MR. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether the taluk board presidents will be at liberty to appoint qualified practitioners of proved merit in the indigenous systems of medicine to serve in dispensaries under the new rural medical scheme?

A.—The answer is in the negative.

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Public Works.

Extension of railway bridges over the Pedda Hagari river.

363 Q.—Mr. P. SIVA RAO: Will the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government and the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the scheme for the extension of the railway bridges over the Pedda Hagari river so as to admit of ordinary vehicular traffic has been sanctioned by the Government; if so, at what cost and whether the whole cost will be borne by the Government;

(b) whether the work is in progress and when it is likely to be completed; and

(c) whether there is urgent and imperative need for the construction of a bridge for crossing the Chinna Hagari river at the village of Hagari Bommanahalli in the Hadagalli taluk in the Bellary district?

A.—(a), (b) & (c) The hon. Member is referred to the answer to question No. 1530 included in the official report of the Proceedings of the Legislative Council of the 6th December 1924, with reference to the announcement of the hon. the President on the 4th December 1924.

Education.

Boarding and lodging facilities for non-Brahman students in the Teachers' College, Saidapet.

364 Q.—Diwan Bahadur P. C. ETHIRAJULU NAYUDU: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the notification in the *Fort St. George Gazette* by the Principal of the Teachers' College, Saidapet, stating that non-Brahman students must make their own arrangements about meals but that Brahman students have got boarding and lodging facilities;

(b) the reason for this distinction and why it is not possible to make similar arrangements for non-Brahman students also;

(c) the number of students in the Teachers' College including the L.T. and Secondary grade teachers; and

(d) if the number of non-Brahman students is small, whether any difficulty is experienced in providing them with the same meals which is available to the Brahman students as is done in the Victoria Hostel?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The reason is that the number of non-Brahman students in the past has been very small, but in practice, the college authorities do make provision for students other than Brahmans and offer them full facilities.

(c) The number of students in the hostel [which is presumably what the hon. Member means under item (c)] is 93.

(d) In the case of any non-Brahman student so desiring, no difficulty would be experienced in providing him with the same meals as the Brahman students. There are instances in which this has been done. Generally non-Brahmans prefer their own

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messes of which this year there are eight in all. These consist of small groups of students from different parts of the Presidency who at their own request run their messes.

Establishment of a lower secondary school in Stonehousepet, Nellore.

365 Q.—Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI: Will the hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Director of Public Instruction refused to sanction the establishment of a lower secondary school in Stonehousepet in Nellore municipality even though the Municipal Council of Nellore was prepared to bear the entire net cost of it;

(b) if so, the reasons for the refusal; and

(c) whether it is not also a fact that the proposal of establishing the said school was approved by the Municipal Council, District Educational Officer and the District Secondary Education Board of Nellore?

A.—(a) The answer is in the affirmative.

(b) The reasons are set forth in the Director of Public Instruction's Endorsement R.O.C. No. 1019-B/24, dated 23rd September 1924, a copy of which is laid on the table.^a

(c) The answer is in the affirmative.

Veterinary.

Veterinary dispensary in Kistna district.

366 Q.—Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that in Kistna district every taluk has been provided with a veterinary dispensary this year;

(b) if so, the cost of the new arrangements; and

(c) why the same sort of consideration has not been shown to Nellore district which is considered to be a cattle centre?

A.—(a) No such arrangement has yet been sanctioned.

(b) & (c) Do not arise.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—“As we have agreed to rise early to-day, that is, at 4 o'clock in the afternoon, I propose that the House should go on without rising formally for lunch. That will compensate for the loss of the extra hour without our having trespass on some other day for that purpose.”

II

THE COCHIN PORT TRUST BILL.

* The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—“Sir, I am perfectly prepared to go on with this business but I think there is a feeling entertained on the part of some hon. Members here that the time allotted for the discussion of the budget should not be encroached upon. If therefore hon. Members prefer

^a Printed as Appendix III on pages 781-782 infra.

* An asterisk at the commencement of a speech indicates revision by the Member.

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that this matter may be postponed till the 30th of this month, I shall have no objection. I formally move for the adjournment of this item to the 30th of March."

Diwan Babadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I second the motion."

The motion was put and carried. The discussion of the Bill was postponed to the 30th of March or such other date as might be fixed later on,

III

GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET.

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Before we proceed to the next order of the day, the general discussion of the budget, I should like to mention that under sub-rule (iii) of rule 28 of the Legislative Council Rules, I have fixed, according to the practice hitherto followed, a time-limit of 15 minutes for each hon. Member's speech during that discussion. The afternoon of the third day will be at the disposal of hon. Members of the Government to make their replies."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" May I know, Sir, if the calendar of voting of grants has been settled ? "

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I have just received a message from His Excellency the Governor on the subject and I have had hardly time to read it in the intervals of our discussion. I promise to let hon. Members know about it this afternoon."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" Is it a final one or a preliminary one that has been sent for your consideration ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I believe it has been sent to me for opinion, but I will let hon. Members know all about it in due course."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI :—" May I request you, Sir, to consult the Leader of the Opposition before you send your opinion ? "

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" Yes ; I mean to consult him ; and further I mean to put the whole matter before the House."

" I should mention now that I was sorry to have had to pass over a number of hon. Members last year at the general discussion of the budget ; and if any of those hon. Members wish to have an early chance this time, I should like to give them precedence."

* Mr. P. O. VENKATAPATI RAJU :—" Mr. President, Sir, the hon. the Finance Member, I hope, will not be surprised if I say that the budget presented by him is both disappointing and unsatisfactory. It is not unsatisfactory simply because it is a deficit budget. Even deficit budgets can be satisfactory if the deficit is the result of causes which are beyond human control. But if the Government did not take precautions to observe strict economy in the administration and effect retrenchment in all directions, it cannot be called wise. We find in this budget that great sums of money are provided for maintaining useless institutions and posts. Great sums of money are provided to be wasted on erection of public buildings which have no utility commensurate with the expenditure which is involved in their construction and which will certainly be involved in their maintenance hereafter. The increase in the cost of Government without meeting the growing needs of the nation—developing departments calls for the severest condemnation. The

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distrust in the people which no bad Government can be free from has made them spend very extravagantly on those departments which are intended for the maintenance of peace and order.

12-15 p. m. “The public expenditure which was less than half a crore in the year 1905 in regard to Police has increased to about 2 crores in this year’s budget. The promotion of education, protection of public health and the development of the natural resources of the country which every good Government undertakes for the welfare of its citizens are woefully neglected. Even the small sums provided for these nation-developing activities are not well spent. Most of the amounts allotted for these purposes have been largely spent on staff, leaving very little to be spent on services actually useful to the people. Then, we see that even in instances where the budget cannot be framed so as to balance itself, Indianization of the services is not resorted to. Indianization of the services is one of the effective means by which without sacrificing efficiency expenditure can be curtailed to a very very very great extent. And for this deficit budget it is not the unforeseen calamities that are responsible. There are calamities brought on by people who are responsible for the good administration of the province, the calamity of saddling a poor province with extra expenditure by accepting the Lee Commission’s proposals, even in spite of strong protests made by this whole House and in regard to which even the Government Benches were not against. When it is a case of finding funds for the superior services we find that some arrangement is made. If it is a question of increasing the salaries of low-paid servants who are miserably ill-paid in this country, there is always the lip sympathy and the Government say ‘Funds are not available’. They have not yet realized that these high salaries are purchased at the cost of miserably low salaries in the lower ranks of the service. If they really wanted to effect some improvement in the salaries of these low-paid servants, they can very easily find funds by a graduated reduction in the salaries of the posts carrying abnormally high salaries.

“In this budget we do not find any amount worth the name devoted to village reconstruction. The sanitation in the villages is in the same state as it was some centuries back. Leaving alone the question of sanitation, even the water-supply of these villages is not attended to. If we have a cursory view of the budget we would find some means provided for all these things, sanitation, education, medical relief and other things. But when we go into details, we will see that all these amounts are spent mostly in urban areas and, even in the case of urban areas, mostly round about Madras (hear, hear), and as I told you in the beginning even the amounts provided for the nation-developing departments are not wisely spent. The hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government might say that he has now brought into existence district sanitary agencies by appointing sanitary inspectors in every taluk in place of the few that were working in each district before. But what are these sanitary inspectors doing now? There are no funds. The local boards are not in a position to supply any funds for any of these services. There is the staff appointed without funds, and the work which was hitherto done by a few, that is vaccination work, is now being done unnecessarily by these lots of health inspectors. I do not mean to say that there is no necessity for the great number of health inspectors. Really it is a pressing need in the rural areas that sanitation and public health should be attended to vigorously. But what is the use of having a

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staff without money to carry out any proposal whatever? If you take into consideration the water-supply of the villages, it is very very deplorable. There is many a village which has no water-supply, leave alone protected water-supply. During summer seasons, the villagers have to go miles away from their villages to get water from a dirty pond or from some ditch in some of the agricultural farms. Hitherto Government used to give contributions to the local bodies for the improvement of village water-supply. But now they have given a staff and they say that no money is available for their work.

"Now, coming to the question of medical relief, of course recently a new scheme of supplying aided allopathic dispensaries for the rural areas has been inaugurated. Perhaps it is not so well known that the allopathic dispensaries are not so very popular in rural areas. Even the few allopathic dispensaries that are existing are resorted to for accidents and for some operations and similar purposes. But if it is a question of curing of diseases, especially diseases of some standing, the people would certainly resort to indigenous systems of medicine. It is the educated few that resort to these allopathic medical institutions for all purposes. But the villager has still some faith, great faith, in the indigenous systems, and even though they may not be of a very good sort, it is these indigenous doctors in the villages that are attending to the medical needs of the villagers and not the allopathic institutions or doctors. Even these subsidised allopathic dispensaries are costing about a thousand rupees each. With a thousand rupees an Ayurvedic or Unani or Siddha dispensary can be well established, and as a matter of fact, in my area there are four Ayurvedic dispensaries of which two are maintained on not more than a thousand rupees each. Of course, these dispensaries will be costly if we are to go in for medicines from some stores just like the allopathic dispensaries. The cost of the medicines of even these allopathic dispensaries is putting a great strain and burden upon the local bodies. If the Ayurvedic medicines are to be prepared, I maintain that an Ayurvedic dispensary can very well be carried on just to suit the needs of these local people with a thousand or at the most twelve hundred rupees a year.

"Then, with regard to Education, I must congratulate the hon. the Minister for Education (hear, hear) who is more successful in getting something for his new schemes than the other Ministers. Of course he has got much for primary education in the budget, but the pity is that I have to say even here that the money is not well spent. Recently he has spent a lakh and odd for the opening of primary schools in villages with a population of a thousand and above. In every one of these villages, except in places—in nooks and corners—far away from our present civilisation, there is either an aided school or some private school. By converting these schools into so-called public schools, no tangible good is done to the people. There are aided schools which are catering to the needs of the villages."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PARRO:—"May I just explain the position, Sir? It is not intended to open these schools in areas where there is provision for a school already. It is not only intended to open schools where there is no school whatever . . ."

Mr. P. C. VENKATAPATI RAJU:—"It may be that there was such an idea in the mind of the hon. the Minister for Education at the time of the inauguration of this new scheme, and it might have been expressed too, but the

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fact is that the aided school teacher on account of his being starved by the meagre grants-in-aid would certainly see that he abolishes his school and becomes a public school teacher by the time this scheme comes into operation. As a matter of fact, when it was known that villages with a population of one thousand and above would certainly get a school, if there was no other school, these aided school teachers contrived to close their schools and sent in representations to the inspectors saying that they closed their schools, with the object of getting themselves employed as teachers of public schools on higher salary. I am now coming to my point. I say that the money is not well spent not because that any money spent on education is a waste. I say it is not well spent because instead of enhancing these grants for these aided schools and instead of making them strong, you starve these aided schools and bring into existence schools known as public schools."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"Again, may I make a correction, Sir? The aided schools are not starved in the budget for 1925-26. All the demands from every district educational council have been fully provided for."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I do not know if the demands are fully provided for."

Mr. P. C. VENKATAPATI RAJU :—"I am connected with a district educational council as its president, and I can contradict the hon. the Minister for Education."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"I refer to the budget provision for 1925-26, not the provision for the current year."

Mr. P. C. VENKATAPATI RAJU :—"Even for the last two or three years I know. . ."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"May I again say, Sir, that I refer to the budget for 1925-26, that is the budget which we are discussing now."

Mr. P. C. VENKATAPATI RAJU :—"I am saying that the policy of opening these new schools has not improved the conditions prevailing before this year. The educational councils, at least I can speak of the educational council of my district, have come forward with proposals that unless the grants are increased there is no use in asking the councils to advance and expand elementary education. That was our experience

12-30 p.m. during the last years, and the hon. the Minister for Education now says that they will fare better hereafter. Well, I thank him for the assurance but at the same time I must assure him that instead of bringing into existence these public schools even in villages with a population of 500 or 1,000, if you are going to continuously increase the grants, you will certainly be doing something more for primary education (Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar: 'hear, hear'), even though it will not manifest itself on its face. I know we have the scheme of opening thousands of schools. But we must see that they are catering to the needs of the people and that they are properly discharging the duties for which they are brought into existence. Even when these elementary schools are opened, there must be vocational courses or some change in the curricula. When

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any elementary schools already in existence want any help from the Government for building grants, it is not forthcoming. Of course, I cannot say that the hon. the Minister is responsible for these things. I do not know whether their requests are forwarded to the Minister or are made to lie with the inspector of schools.

"Now with regard to Local Self-Government, I may say without any fear of contradiction that the local boards are faring far worse than they did in the years before the advent of these reforms. In those years there used to be some principle upon which the grants were distributed among the various local boards. Now I find that no principle is being followed. I think there must be some principles upon which the grants ought to be regulated instead of leaving them to the caprices of the department.

"Now, the hon. the Finance Member has warned us that we should not raise great hopes on the reduction of our contribution to the Central Government simply because it was foreshadowed, and he said that there were powerful interests at work to raid the surplus or divert it to other uses. So also I have a strong mind to warn this House that there are powerful interests at work to raid our surpluses and divert them to other uses. When it was expected that some abatement of this contribution to the Central Government would occur, it was agreed on all hands and also by both the Reserved and Transferred halves of the Government that most of this money should be given for nation-developing activities. But I find that there are other interests now at work, and the budget is such, and it is even foreshadowed by the hon. the Finance Member, that this money will be spent for wiping off the debt with the hope that it will bring better prosperity in future years. I want to warn this House not to tolerate such a state of things. Even if such a windfall, as the hon. the Finance Member calls it, is not diverted to nation-building activities, I do not know when these activities will be better fostered."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"Mr. President, Sir, the hon. the Finance Member has really realized the position as regards the nature of the budget he has introduced in this Council. But, at the same time, I am very sorry that the Government which has put forward the budget through him has not realized the position as he seems to have done in the speech which he made the day before yesterday and in which he tried to satisfy the people with regard to what is going on in this Presidency. Sir, when the Reforms were introduced into this country, it was thought we were going to have the millennium, we were going to have progress everywhere and all those wasteful expenditure, or expenditure about which people held views different from those of the Government, were going to be reduced, and expenditure on matters relating to what the hon. the Finance Member himself called nation-building projects were going to be increased. But we have found to our very great dissatisfaction, Sir, that all those expectations have been belied by facts during the last four years, and we stand at the present moment, if anything, in a worse position than we were in before. Well, Sir, after the Reforms were put into force it was said that this provincial contribution to the Government of India was the one thing troubling Madras and that but for it everything would be all right. Year after year, Sir, we were treated to stories of how carefully we were working our finances and how things were not going to improve unless the Government of India were going to relax their

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purse-strings ever so little. Now, what do we find? We find, Sir, expenditure is being incurred in anticipation; year after year we find that expenditure is incurred out of capital; our unproductive debts are being increased year by year with the result that ultimately we will only find that any concessions that the Government of India may give us is already mortgaged, and there is little left for all that we expected to do for our good in this Presidency. We find, for instance, in the revised estimate that there is a deficit of Rs. 40 lakhs which is to come out of borrowings from the Government of India and again in the budget estimate about Rs. 88 lakhs will be spent from unproductive debts; so the two together will amount to Rs. 128 lakhs, that is, two lakhs more than what we expect as concession from the Government of India this year. That is the position to which we have been brought, Sir, to-day. The hon. the Finance Member spoke of retrenchment in the Government whereby the standing commitments were reduced by Rs. 65 lakhs in the year before last. Well, the figures given for the last three years in the budget estimates, copies of which were supplied to us, show that the expenditure has increased by about Rs. 100 lakhs within two years. If you take all the four years together, the expenditure has increased by something like Rs. 150 lakhs or so, whereas the revenue does not seem to have been equally elastic as the expenditure. Well, Sir, where do we find ourselves again? There is the Lee Commission's report for which a provision of Rs. 9 lakhs was made in the current year in the revised estimate which is considered to be short by Rs. 14 lakhs and we do not know what our further expenditure with reference to this will be when the Bill that is impending there in England is introduced in the House of Commons and passed and given effect to. Not only that; we find that instead of stopping with that, the Government is trying to introduce into the several departments more and more men in the Imperial Services. I had a list made yesterday and I am sorry it is now missing (laughter), but I may just state at least a few cases which I remember just now. For instance, Sir, in the Forest service two more forest officers in the Imperial Service are going to be introduced. We have, for instance, Sir, two Under Secretaries in the Secretariat here who were formerly in the Provincial Service and who are going to be replaced by men from the Imperial Service."

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" May I ask the hon. Member to state the departments to which he refers? "

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" Both in the Revenue and in the Law Departments, if I remember right, the Under Secretaries are going to be replaced by Under Secretaries in the Imperial Service."

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" Sir, in the past, Under Secretaries have been generally men from the Imperial Service."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" I am speaking about last year and this year. I am speaking with reference to the budget estimate supplied to me by the hon. the Finance Member."

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—" I may further say that the appointment from the one or other service does not make any difference."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—" I do not think so. If, for instance, a place in the Secretariat is not scheduled for a member of the Indian Civil Service, to that extent the number of Indian Civil Service officers will be reduced."

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The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"I may point out that no posts in the Secretariat are listed."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"So much the better. If these people are employed as Under Secretaries, to that extent there may be more officers in the Indian Civil Service doing other work. Well, Sir, we find also a number of special officers who are annually created. For instance, a Deputy Director in the Provincial Educational Service is to be in the Indian Educational Service. What is the result of that? We have been increasing the number in the Imperial Services. I know there are two arguments to be advanced with reference to that on the other side. One is that in the Imperial Services we have now got more Indians. So far as charges are concerned, it does not matter very much, except with reference to overseas pay and one or two other things, whether the officer is an Indian or a European. We have been saying that the scale of pay that has been given to these officers has been very high, so high that India, a poor country, cannot afford it. The fact that a few Indians are put into these services is no reason to justify that the pay has become what it should be. No doubt there is a political objection to the employment of Europeans in these services. That is another matter. But so far as the economic argument is concerned, it does not matter whether the officer that is appointed is a European or an Indian. In any case, Sir, the very high pay that is given to the Imperial Service officers is out of all proportion to what is necessary to be given in a country like India. To that extent I take exception to these appointments, whether the officers are Europeans or Indians. We also find another thing. A number of appointments which have no connexion with Imperial services are now shown as non-votable items in the budget. I do not know why they are so done. For instance, the pay of the Sanitary Engineer to Government, the Sanitary Commissioner and people like that who are holding special appointments—I suppose they are called scientific appointments—which do not belong to the Imperial Services, these are now shown in the budget as non-votable items. For what reason I do not know at all. It seems to me, Sir, that is a matter of serious interference with the rights of this House to mark almost every big appointment under the Government as non-votable. . . ."

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"May I explain that it does not make any difference in the total amount? It so happens that these appointments are held by officers whose pay is not votable. But it does not affect the amount to be voted by the Council or the extent of control vested in the Council."

Rao Bahadur T. A. RAMALINGA CHETTIYAR :—"I fear the hon. the Finance Member is not correct there. He is not correct for this reason. If the item has been put as non-votable, then we cannot reduce the amount by any motion made in this House. I do say for that reason that the hon. the Finance Member is wrong there. Then he said that it was because they are Imperial officers they are shown as non-votable. Then again there is a fallacy. If the appointment is not ordinarily held by a person in the Imperial Service, certainly the pay of the post ought to be votable in this House. But by a jugglery, instead of appointing a man from outside, the Government appoint a man who is already in the service. I contend that his pay ought to be still votable and for the time being he should be considered as not in Government Imperial service. He

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ought to be treated differently as otherwise the powers of this House with regard to the pay of the office will be taken away and seriously interfered with thereby. For instance, Government to-morrow create, say 200, new appointments and put all the officers of the Imperial Service, non-votable service, in those places instead of new men. Are we to be told that these appointments have been filled in by the Imperial service men and we cannot touch their pay? That is a policy which ought to be faced, and I do think the Government seeing that such a step is a serious inroad on the powers of this House and largely affects the privileges of this House should show these items as votable.

"Then, Sir, the present unsatisfactory result in our financial position has been attained not only with reference to the state of things which had existed before the Reforms came into existence but after a lot of new taxes have been imposed upon the people. The first of the new taxes that have been imposed on the people, I beg to submit, is the increase in the Excise duty. Well, Sir, the Government calls it as their policy of maximum of revenue with the minimum of consumption. Whatever name they call it by, there is no doubt that it is an additional taxation. And then, from what class of people is this tax being collected? It is most unfortunate that most people that pay these additional taxes are the poor people. By far the major portion of this amount is raised by tax on the toddy and arrack supplied to people who resort to these toddy and arrack shops to drink this poisonous liquor. Certainly these are poisonous; and if these are not poisonous, I do not know what else they are. Those who take these poisonous liquors are all very poor people. This is therefore a tax on poor people. Now, it is an open fact and probably there will be a few people—but I do know there are several here—who will think that these poor people resort to toddy shops of their own free will. It is a temptation that exists in their way. It is due to their existence that a number of people belonging to the poor class go there and drink in these toddy shops. These poor people who resort to these places are helpless and the only way in which they can be helped is by removing the temptation away from them. That is the conclusion which the Special Committee in Bombay has arrived at, and I hope that the same will be the conclusion that will be arrived at here also. That being the case, what is the result of these additional taxes? The result is that you are forcibly taking from these helpless poor people a very large amount of money for the use of the State. I beg to submit, Sir, that this is a most objectionable procedure altogether. It ought to be put an end to as early as possible. I am for prohibition altogether. I know the hon. the Finance Member is trotting out the usual objection that by prohibition you are not stopping drink. That has been the usual way of meeting the problem. He seems to think that by a law of prohibition we are only going to increase the drink. We have got the example of at least one democratic country in the world, viz., the United States of America. Its position as a democratic country cannot be questioned, and it has adopted the policy of prohibition. There are several persons who have gone to America, and they say the policy of prohibition is not working well. I know that also. But how far we can trust their statement will be seen by the official reports received on the matter. The reports say that the law is being worked splendidly, that it has been able to stop drinking and that everything is getting on very well. Sir, in a democratic country like the United States if there was a serious complaint against that law, the matter could have been taken

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to the notice of the Government and proper redress sought. I say, Sir, that except persons interested in the liquor trade, who are very few, all are agitating for prohibition. Liquor trade is a very bad trade and it has a large amount of money behind it. Well, Sir, as I say, this tax on excise is a most unreasonable and a most objectionable tax that has been levied on the poor, and it must be removed as early as possible. What we want is restriction on the consumption, restriction with regard to the localities, restriction as to the number of shops and things like that. If these restrictions existed, there will be real improvement in the present situation. If the tax is higher, it only means that we are taking away the major portion of the money from the poor people.

"Then, Sir, we have taxes increased by the local bodies and municipalities. The new Acts which were framed allowed some power and some sort of discretion to the local bodies with the result that the taxes have all been increased everywhere. All round, we have an increased taxation. But I am sorry to say that to that extent we do not find any benefits. That is the position we stand in. So, Sir, if we are going to have any real benefit from the Government of India by any reduction in our contribution, I do submit for the serious consideration of the Government the question of tackling this policy of prohibition at the earliest moment. There is one other danger also. The loss of revenue by adopting a policy of prohibition will be much. It will be about 4 or 5 lakhs. The only big source for meeting this is the reduction in the contribution. If we lose this opportunity when the reduction is going to be made and if we let the occasion go by without making any provision for the reduction of drink, we will probably find later on that we are not able on financial grounds to deal with the question at all. So I do submit that this is the only opportunity when anything like a serious consideration can be given to this excise question and a proper solution evolved. If this opportunity is let to pass, I do not know if there will be any early opportunity at all for us to tackle this problem. For that reason, I would very earnestly impress upon the attention of the Government the necessity for tackling this question at once. The hon. the Minister for Excise has been sitting over this question for a very long time, for over two years, and we have not heard anything about the new policy that has been evolved out of his labours. If he is really serious to come to an early decision on this question and see the new policy put into force, it must be by utilising a major portion of the contribution that may be realized from the Government of India for the purpose of meeting the deficit by cutting down the revenue of the province from excise taxes.

"There are many matters about which I should like to speak; but then, the time is up. I will only say that for all beneficent purposes, for drinking water supply in villages, elementary education, medical relief and things like that there has not been very much progress in Madras. During the last three years, education has got only 10 lakhs (primary education) in addition to what was got before the Reforms. But may I draw attention of the House to what they were doing in Bombay quite recently? The hon. the Minister for Education must show some solid improvement if he desires to be compared, at least to some extent, with the Minister in Bombay, who also belongs to the non-Brahman party. It seems to me if there is to be any return from the contribution, the first relief ought to go to meet the reduction in the Excise revenue and then the reduction of additional

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taxes. These will have to be considered more seriously before we increase the emoluments of the services as recommended by the Lee Commission. As I said during the discussion on the Lee Commission Report, I do not grudge to those who are already in service any payment that might be recommended by the Lee Commission or the Secretary of State. What I object to is the increase of the number on higher pay in the services and thereby forcing on us higher expenditure. We can certainly get good men to do these services here on very much less pay. This is a consideration the House should look into. It is only by reducing the expenditure in that way that we can satisfy the people and also the interests of nation-building departments the advancement of which the hon. the Finance Member says he has so much at heart. I would once again request the Government to consider all these matters and tackle the problems at once."

Mr. C. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR:—"Mr. President, Sir, we cannot very well blame the hon. the Finance Member for having presented to this Council a deficit budget for 1925-26. Even the current year closes with a deficit of over 32 lakhs against all expectations which was due to circumstances over which the Finance Member had no control. Fortunately for all of us, the deficit budget has been turned into a surplus budget suddenly, as if it were by a magician's wand, by the remission of 126 lakhs graciously made by the Government of India in the usual provincial contribution of 348 lakhs to Central Revenues. We hope that in these altered circumstances, more allotments would be made by Government for grants to local bodies for health purposes. The crying need of the villagers is the provision of a good water-supply and of tolerably good village roads, connecting them with the adjoining taluk or district trunk roads as the case may be. In the pre-reform days, grants were given to district boards from provincial funds for the construction of village roads. The Chingleput district was treated as one of the poorer districts, deserving special treatment in the matter of village roads. The Government no doubt now make large grants to district boards for the maintenance of trunk roads and for second class roads. We wish some grant is made in aid of the village roads also, so that better facilities may be given to the villagers who cry out at the top of their voice, and urge on us, their representatives here, the necessity of providing village roads, connecting their villages with the nearest trunk road or other roads now maintained from public funds.

"In addition to the road communications, better attention will have to be paid to the improvement of water ways. It is not without purpose that the administrators of this Presidency in the past have constructed the lengthy canal known as the Buckingham Canal. The improvement of the Canal for purposes of navigation is a very desirable thing, and there have been complaints from the users of this means of communication about its shallowness, and to an interpellation put by me last year in this Council, the hon. the Law Member said that the petition of the people had been forwarded to the Superintending Engineer for action. It is not clear whether sufficient allotments have been made in the budget for making the canal really useful to the public. I find the provision in the next year's budget for maintenance and repairs is less than that made in the current year's revised estimate. That is the attention paid by the Government to the humble representation made by the people and their representatives. I request that the Government will inquire into the complaint and make better provision

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in the course of the year for proper maintenance of the Buckingham Canal. As for the position of the canal situate within the limits of the Madras City, apart from the difficulty in the matter of navigation due to the heavy silting, I would urge on the attention of the Government the desirability of keeping this length of the canal in a sanitary condition, for it affects not only the health of the permanent citizens of the Madras City, but also that of the floating population, as the stench arising either from the city drainage discharged into the canal or from the accumulated filthy silt at the bottom, during the hot months of the year, when the Government is away at Ootacamund, is unbearable. The Madras City representatives here would bear ample testimony to this. Any of the Government Members may also know this to be true if they remain for a minute or two on the Elephant Gate Bridge near the railway level crossing. This can be remedied by the Government Sanitary Engineers, if not by the Corporation Engineer. It is all a question of funds. That must be found if the Government care for the health of the citizens. The Government will do well to consider the question of the extension of the canal to the south of Madras making it run as far as Pondicherry at least, instead of stopping it, as at present, at the Chingleput district southern frontier. There was a resolution moved in the pre-reform days by a non-official member demanding a provision of a lakh of rupees in the budget for further extension of the canal to the Tanjore district. The Government should examine the question of providing better facilities for communication for the people on the sea coast, who mostly depend on this canal for cheap transport of the local produce to the Madras and other markets. The cost of transport by this canal is very much cheaper than the railway freight.

"The attention of the officers of the Public Works Department should specifically be drawn to the matter of maintaining the present canal in a suitable condition for *uninterrupted* navigation during all months of the year without complaint from the merchants and other users of the canal as at present. If need be, increased allotment should be made for clearance of silt, for widening and deepening the canal, where necessary, and for the provision of wharfs of suitable landing arrangements in different places along the course of the canal. Many cargo laden boats are stuck up between Papanhavadi and Madras for want of sufficient depth of water during the non-flood season. I hope the Government, rather the Member in charge of Irrigation portfolio, would pay some attention, if not sufficient attention, to this.

"As regards village water-supply, in the days when allotments were made from the minor sanitation grant, there were greater opportunities for sinking wells in the villages wherever necessary. It is absolutely necessary that sufficient provision should be made in the budget for grants to district boards for the purpose of sinking wells in villages. In several villages, the drinking-water ponds dry up in the hot months of the year when water for drinking is most needed by the people and the cattle. We have instances where men and animals go to neighbouring villages during these hot months to quench their thirst. Their condition is very pitiable indeed (Mr. Veerian : hear, hear). We will not be doing our duty properly till we get for the villagers in each village at least one drinking-water well, where water cannot be had at present during the hot months of the year when shallow ponds of water completely dry up. All classes of people—in

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villages as well as in cheris—stand in need of assistance in the matter of provision of drinking-water wells to tide over water scarcity in the hot months of the year. I hope this particular grievance of the people will receive the early attention of the Government and necessary provisions be made in the budget.”

* Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—“ Sir, probably the most striking feature in the present budget is that it is a deficit one. It is also an honest one. In any case, there is no attempt in the budget to conceal facts from us. As I was saying, what struck me most in this present budget is the fact that it is a deficit one. The current year closes with a deficit of 32 lakhs—I am speaking in round figures—and the year 1925–26 is expected to close with a deficit of about 88 lakhs. One marked feature of our budget in recent years has been that more or less we are always having deficit budgets except in one year, in the year 1923–24, when we had a surplus budget. That year ended with a surplus of about 28 lakhs. In 1922 or so, when we were threatened with a huge deficit of about a crore of rupees, this Council assisted the Government to pass two Bills, the Stamp Bill and the Court Fees Bill, the object of which was to enhance the stamp duties and the court fee rates. It was hoped at the time that after the temporary difficulty of the Government then was over these Acts would be repealed. But we now find that there is no intention on the part of the Government to repeal either of these Acts to any extent. In fact, at the time of the budget discussion last year, the Council as a protest against the Government’s attitude with reference to these two measures, passed a token resolution and deducted a sum of one thousand rupees from the amount under Stamps. The carrying out of that resolution has had no effect on the Government. Even to-day, I understood from my hon. Friend the Law Member in answer to an interpellation this morning that there was no intention on the part of the Government to repeal these Acts to any extent. It is rather unfortunate. The Finance Member in the speech introducing the budget says that the only way of meeting this deficit is either by additional taxation or by retrenchment. With reference to the additional taxation, and also with reference to retrenchment, he stated that both these would be unpopular. I may say, Sir, with reference to additional taxation, that that will not only be unpopular but cannot even be thought of. In fact, the country is not in a position to pay any more taxes. As the Finance Member himself admitted in another connexion, this province is the most heavily taxed of all the provinces, and any addition to the financial burden will certainly put the people to considerable difficulties, and it would really be an act of killing the goose that lays golden eggs. So that I hope there is no intention whatever, there is no covert intention on the part of the Government, to introduce any taxation measure at present or in the near future. The only reasonable way in which this deficit can be met is by retrenchment in the proper direction. But instead of retrenchment, what do the Government do? They go on, adding to the expenditure. I may just refer to one item, that is, the item that is introduced into the budget in consequence of the passing of orders by the Secretary of State on the Lee Commission’s Report. This Council passed practically an unanimous resolution to the effect that no effect should be given to the proposals contained in the Report, and the Imperial Assembly at Delhi also passed a resolution to the same effect. But the authorities higher up, the Secretary of State and apparently the Government of India

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also, treated this resolution as if it were a resolution passed in a debating society of school boys (hear, hear). Let us hope that a better spirit will prevail in the Government.

"By proper retrenchment, I mean not the reduction of a number of constables by about 1,600 or 2,000, nor the reduction of a few excise peons, nor the reduction of a number of peons in the Judicial or Revenue department. That is not the sort of retrenchment that would give us any chance of salvation. The retrenchment must be in higher quarters. For instance, there is a large number of officers who are, so to speak, serving as conduit pipes or post offices between the Government and subordinate officers. There are a number of officers, such as Deputy Inspectors-General of Police, Deputy Commissioners in the Salt and Abkari Department, Superintending Engineers. . . ."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"The Deputy Commissioners of Excise are abolished."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I suppose the Deputy Inspectors-General of Police and Superintending Engineers have not yet been abolished. I was referring only to certain classes of officers who may very usefully be dispensed with, without affecting efficiency in the working of the various Government departments. As I said, the financial salvation of this Council can be attained only by retrenchment in the proper direction and also by gradual reduction and ultimate abolition of Provincial contributions.

"Now, with reference to the Provincial contributions, Sir, since the Reforms Act was passed and since the amount of 348 lakhs was fixed as the quota of this Government to be paid to the Imperial Government, we began to protest against it; we protested in the press, in the public platform and in this Council, and during the lifetime of the last Council we, inclusive of the Government Members, unanimously passed a resolution praying that this contribution of 3½ crores might be abolished. We have been practically crying in the wilderness; our cry has not been heard. After we passed that resolution and partly as a part of that resolution, this Council appointed a deputation to wait upon His Excellency the Viceroy. The deputation wrote to His Excellency the Viceroy for permission. The permission was given and the deputation went to Delhi and waited on His Excellency. Of course, the Viceroy very courteously, very kindly received the deputation, very patiently listened to the individual representations of all the members of the deputation and made a long reply lasting for about half an hour. Ultimately, the members of the deputation found that they were no wiser at the end than they were at the beginning. We hoped that at a subsequent meeting of the Finance Members of the various Governments which was held to tackle this problem, they would do some benefit by way of reduction, if not abolition of the contributions of this Government as well as of other Governments. The long expected meeting of Financial Members did come ultimately, and after the meeting was over, we were left as we were before.

"Then, last year in the Assembly the hon. the Finance Member stated that if the Assembly agreed to raise the salt duty, a reduction would be made in the contribution from the Provinces. The Assembly refused to enhance the salt duty and no relief was granted by way of a reduction in the Provincial contributions. Now, Sir, there is some

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hope—I believe it is only a hope yet, because we should not count the chickens before the eggs are hatched—seeing that the Finance Member has stated, and the Government of India have stated, that it is proposed to give a reduction of 126 lakhs this year to this Province. From the subsequent answers which the Finance Member gave the Assembly yesterday it is found that it is his intention to wipe off this contribution completely by gradual reduction of it year after year. While on the one hand we have this hope, we find on the other hand that the Bombay people have begun to protest very loudly for not getting any reduction in their contribution and we read in the newspapers that an adjournment of their Council was moved in respect of this matter. Apparently they want reduction or abolition of the Cotton Excise duty and also this. For my part I shall only be glad if they get their share of reduction. But so far as we are concerned. . . .”

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—“Sir, with your permission, I would correctly state the position. I do not want the hon. Member to have any misapprehension about the matter. According to the Devolution Rules, Bombay is not entitled to any reduction out of the present remission.”

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—“Their objection is particularly with regard to Bengal”

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—“I am only interrupting my hon. Friend to make the position clear. I hope the Council is going to help us with a strong expression of opinion.”

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—“So far as we are concerned we are unanimous, including also the Members of Government, that we want a reduction to this extent of Rs. 126 lakhs at once and the gradual abolition of the whole amount. What we have got now is only an indication of willingness on the part of the Government of India to give us this relief. We do not know what the ultimate result of this proposal will be when it is moved by the Government of India in the Assembly. We the Members of this House should give a mandate to our representatives there to make earnest attempts to assist the hon. the Finance Member when he moves this proposition for a reduction of our contribution by Rs. 126 lakhs.

“I wish to say before I proceed to the other general subjects one or two things affecting Malabar. For, I am afraid I may not get time to refer to the other subjects as well. I want to refer, to begin with, to the Victoria College at Palghat. That college is a Government college and a second grade college. It will be noticed, Sir, that there are Government first grade colleges in all the important parts of the Presidency. There is the Presidency College in Madras in addition to the other private first grade colleges. There is a first grade Government college in the south of the Presidency and there is one in the north of the Presidency. But there is no Government first grade college in the West Coast: there is no first grade college in Malabar at all. The desirability and the necessity for raising the second grade Government college that now exists in Palghat to a first grade college was brought to the notice of my hon. Friend the Minister for Education more than once by means of resolutions and by means of notices for reduction in the grant, and, ultimately, he was good enough to appoint a committee consisting of six members—one of whom was the Director of Public Instruction, four were Members of this House and the other was a gentleman acquainted with conditions in Malabar. The committee met several

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times and held consultations and ultimately made a recommendation to the Government. I do not know what the opinion of the Director of Public Instruction is; because I have not seen it. But the opinion of all the other members, the unanimous opinion of all the other members of that committee, was that there should be a first grade college in Malabar. One member was of opinion that it should be in Tellichery while the others were of opinion that it should be in Palghat. I hope my hon. Friend the Minister for Education will give effect to this recommendation. In this connexion I may also say that there is a great need for the establishment of not only a first grade college, but a University on the West Coast—a Kerala University. I find that a provision of Rs. 11,000 is made in the budget for 1925-26 for the appointment of a special officer to go into the questions connected with the establishment of an Andhra University. I have no quarrel with that. I am in full sympathy with the establishment of an Andhra University. The Tamil country wants a University and we find that there are already insistent cries calling for the establishment of a University somewhere in Trichinopoly or Madura. The West Coast has a culture of its own. Travancore, I know, and also the Cochin Government are very anxious to join this Government in the establishment of a Kerala University. As a matter of fact, six years ago, the Travancore Government constituted a committee to go into this question and the committee submitted an interim report. The committee with a change in its personnel again sat to work about two years ago. I know the Travancore Government is very anxious to establish a Kerala University. As this Government is more important than those two Governments, it is for this Government to take the initiative in this matter and if my hon. Friend the Education Minister invites the Travancore Government and the Cochin Government to co-operate with this Government in establishing a Kerala University, I am sure the University would become an accomplished fact in the near future.

“ I have to refer to one other matter relating to Malabar. The hon. the Finance Member stated in his speech introducing the budget that out of a loan of about Rs. 9,00,000 it is proposed to write off about 4 lakhs and odd, the sum advanced to small individual proprietors. It is proposed to write off this amount as also a loan of Rs. 2,13,000 which has been advanced to rubber companies. With reference to this I may say that there is apparently objection in some quarters that it is not a desirable thing to write off an amount advanced as loan. I, however, on behalf of the people of Malabar fully approve the proposal to write off the amount lent to poor people. My hon. Friend Sir Arthur Knapp knows that this sum of Rs. 4,91,000 has been lent in small sums to numerous agriculturists. In fact this sum was advanced under his direction in small sums of Rs. 100, Rs. 200 and so on to persons who lost their all in consequence of the Mappilla rebellion to enable them to build their huts, purchase cattle, etc. No interest has been collected from them and objection is taken to that also. It is a fact that they are unable to pay it and therefore it is a very good proposal to write off this loan. Moreover, the Government have collected, according to the speech made by the hon. the Finance Member, about 9 lakhs by way of fines from the Mappilla prisoners.

“ The Finance Member also proposed to write off Rs. 2,13,000 advanced as loan to rubber companies. I cannot say anything with regard to that. If the rubber companies are not in a position to repay the loan, certainly

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they also need consideration. Then again there is a proposal to grant compensation (Rs. 40,000) to one of these rubber companies. I do not object to it, because I do not know anything about the financial position of the company. But if compensation is to be granted to one rubber company, it is only right and legitimate that compensation should be given to thousands of private persons who have suffered by the rebellion. I would say as a matter of fact that these people deserve such compensation. So that if it is proposed to give this sum of Rs. 40,000 and odd to one rubber company as compensation, it would be absolutely necessary to provide for a much larger sum for payment of compensation to various persons having regard to their loss in the rebellion.

"I find one item in the budget, viz., a provision of about 14,000 rupees for introducing compulsory education among the Mappillas in the taluks of Ponnani and Walluvanad. This is also in the right direction. But may I ask why Ponnani is taken in preference to Ernad for introducing compulsory education? Ponnani except in the last unfortunate rebellion is not generally a troublesome tract. It is Ernad that is troublesome. I would ask that if Ponnani is not a mistake for Ernad, it may be. . ."

The hon. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. PATRO :—"It is on the recommendation of the committee appointed for the purpose that Ponnani was selected."

Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—"I am afraid that committee has made a very great mistake (laughter). Ernad is certainly the place for the introduction of compulsory education."

* Mr. K. ABDUL HYE SAHIB :—"While sympathising with the difficulties of the hon. the Finance Member in preparing the Provincial Budget for the coming year, I cannot but feel that this Province has been very unfortunate in facing again this heart-rending deficit budget, as a result of which, I dare say several schemes of grave importance benefiting the country must have been held up."

"But, Sir, this deplorable state of finance could not have been unavoidable, had the retrenchment been observed in the strict sense in some of the departments in which certain items of expenditure have been quite superfluous. Year after year, Sir, great emphasis has been laid inside this House that the intermediate officers such as Conservators of Forests, Deputy Inspectors-General of Police, Assistant Commissioners of Abkari, etc., should be abolished. But in spite of popular feelings and protests these have been allowed to continue. You know, Sir, that top-heaviness in administration is an unwise method on the expenditure side resulting in such state of finance as we are asked to face to-day. We are extremely indebted to the long and labourious efforts of the Retrenchment Committee but we cannot help feeling in this direction that the axe has not been applied wholesale to the root and branch of the administration. With last year's budget we thought that our gloomy days were over but unfortunately they are still hanging on us and now the only salvation seems to lie in the release of the Provincial contribution, which, if released, would mean a boon to this Presidency."

"Now, Sir, with the time at my disposal I want to confine myself to one or two remarks. We, Muhammadans, are anxious to know what the 'Reforms' have done for us. The percentage of literacy among us has been as low as ever."

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1-30 p.m. "The expansion of elementary education, if the Reforms are to yield the maximum benefits, is of paramount importance. There are several villages in the Ceded districts in particular, with large Muslim population where the benefits of elementary education have not been extended, and in places where there are schools for Muhammadan boys the teacher gets his pay so low that he is not able to make a living with it. A school-master who is expected to devote his whole time to his work cannot be expected to get on with a meagre salary of Rs. 15 per month. Every department has its increase in salaries but it is the poor school-master that is not able to get his proper wages. If the Government are acting on the principle that the school-master must be a man of the village and therefore his wants must be few, I submit it is a wrong notion. For even in villages the cost of living has increased enormously. The apathy shown towards Muslim education has been very deplorable. There is a Government Muhammadan Training School at Bellary intended for the teachers of the Muhammadan elementary schools of the Ceded districts run on a tentative basis from 1919, the year of its inception. This school has been producing excellent results in the public examinations and is located in a free magnificent building, thanks to the strenuous efforts of the local people. The work of the school has been reported by the Inspecting officers to be very satisfactory and the question of its confirmation has been pressed so often. In spite of these the Government have shown a lukewarm sympathy towards its confirmation.

"There is one more point I wish to raise before I am done, viz., the scant courtesy shown by the Educational authorities to the request of the Manager of the Arabic College, Kurnool, for providing a hostel building for the use of boys of the Madrassa. The cost of the building was estimated at Rs. 26,000 of which the local Muhammadans have come forward to bear one half. A deputation of Muhammadans had waited on the hon. the Minister for Education in this connexion a few months ago and the hon. the Minister for Education was pleased to promise his support in the matter. I am now surprised to learn, Sir, that two times the plan of the proposed building was returned by the Director of Public Instruction with the remarks to cut short the number of rooms and halls reducing the whole thing to a very small building which would hardly accommodate 50 to 60 students as it is intended to be. This is the only college for oriental languages in the Presidency for Muhammadans and the strength is day by day increasing with the result that the management is obliged to refuse admission owing to insufficient accommodation and those that have been admitted are forced to seek shelter in public mosques. This is an abominable state of affairs and I seriously appeal to the hon. the Minister for Education, interested as he is in my community, not to observe the pennywise policy in this matter but to come to the rescue of the houseless students of the college whose misery is increasing day by day. With these remarks I resume my seat."

Rai Bahadur T. M. NARASIMHACHARLU :—"Sir, it is indeed a matter for congratulation that in spite of adverse circumstances during the current year which converted an anticipated surplus of Rs. 15.18 lakhs into a deficit to Rs. 32.36 lakhs, the Finance Member has not shrunk from allotting funds to improve Education, Irrigation, Medical aid, Agriculture, Public health, Civil Works and so on costing about 39½ lakhs of which 33 lakhs are debited to Railways, and 6½ to loans during 1925 to 1926, even though by so doing the

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deficit is expected to be 88.03 lakhs at the end of the next year and even though this Province has to increase its borrowings by 198.74 lakhs next year, thus accumulating the debt to a total of Rs. 1,451.90 lakhs.

"The only ray of hope to steer clear of this huge deficit is the proposal of a reduction of the iniquitous impost by 126 lakhs. If that relief does not come, owing to the internecine jealousies of other provinces or otherwise, it will be a hopeless matter for Madras at the end of next year. If it comes, the Government will not only cover their deficit but devote the balance to the nation-building and health-giving departments. It is to be hoped that our representatives in the Assembly will so manage those of other provinces that they do not object to the proposed reduction to our Province.

"While I reciprocate the sentiment expressed by the hon. the Finance Member that our aim is to achieve fiscal autonomy, I hope that all other Members of Government both on the Reserved and on the Transferred side will not stop with merely attaining fiscal autonomy but will endeavour to achieve provincial autonomy also. For when we attain that freedom not only in finance but from outside control, we shall be in a position to transfer all departments to the control of popular and responsible Ministers and to administer them in such a way as to give greatest benefits and least burdens to the poor people entrusted to their care.

"As it is, partly owing to the evil effects of dyarchy and partly owing to outside control in finance and other matters, we have not been able to achieve anything tangible at all to increase the productive capacity of the people in matters agricultural, industrial and commercial, except perhaps the questionable benefit of communal representation in services. To increase the productive capacity of the people we must also improve their education and their health and minimise their chances of falling a prey to diseases and epidemics, special care being taken of the health of the infants and children. But alas! enough is not being done in these directions. Unless peoples are healthy and robust and unless direct increased facilities are afforded to them to improve their agriculture, industries and commerce, there can be no increased productivity in the nation and consequently there is no way to find means to meet the ever-growing expenditure of this province. As the Finance Member put it, it is unthinkable to increase the taxation of the people and it is not desirable to effect further retrenchments which are not only unpopular when effected but will seriously affect efficiency. The only remedy therefore seems to be to put an end to dyarchy, to achieve provincial autonomy, and to start in right earnest to improve the education and health and the productive capacity and the material wealth of the people.

"The Land Revenue Bill is still in the air. It is the element of uncertainty and the liability to periodical settlements without any definite and defined principles of taxation, that may be a cause for the slow progress of improvement in agricultural methods. It is the duty of the Government to enact a law satisfactorily to all concerned as early as possible.

"In the matter of Stamp revenue, both judicial and non-judicial, the sooner some relief is given the better it will be. The poor are greatly affected by it. In the case of documents dealing with Rs. 200 and less the old rates may be restored. There is no necessity to charge full ad valorem court fees in the case of ex parte suits and of appeals against decrees in suits of a small cause nature up to Rs. 500.

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"In the case of registration fees including search fees, it is necessary that a reduction should be made at least in the case of documents whose stamps do not exceed Rs. 5 in value.

"In the case of Forests, serious attempts should be made to exploit them on a commercial basis instead of merely attending to their conservancy alone. Attention should also be paid to improving the communications for that purpose. The Government should view the question from the standpoint of the people and give greater facilities and relief in the matter of grazing fees, manure leaves and agricultural timber. I cannot share in the satisfaction expressed by the department that the Village Forest Panchayats are generally a success. There must be some local supervision over the work of the Special Panchayat officer and the panchayats.

"Minor Irrigation should receive greater attention at the hands of the Government as most of the works are badly in want of repairs.

"The Local Fund Audit department is no doubt doing excellent work and is a necessary institution, but to the annoyance of many local bodies, the department has a tendency to usurp the functions of the Government and dictate policy to them and control their powers and discretion, instead of confining themselves to purely audit matters. Will the Government look into this question?

"While some of the hon. Members of this House are anxious to curtail the salaries of the Ministers, they may as well set an example of self-sacrifice by taking double first-class fares for the first hundred miles and a single first-class fare for distances over 100 miles of railway journey, as that would meet all extra costs incurred by them. The local board presidents have cheerfully submitted to the decision of this Council and the hon. Ministers also have each given up Rs. 1,000 of their pay every month. Cannot we do that much?

"The Police consume nearly one-eighth of our income and yet what is the net result of their existence? Crimes have not decreased; their detection is poor, both in quality and quantity; and the majority of their charge sheets fail before courts. I cannot say if their honesty and sincerity have improved; at least as a compensation for their inefficiency. Something should be done to improve it to justify this large expenditure. Cannot this Government improve it on the model of the London police for courtesy, efficiency and honesty?

"While it is gratifying to see the honest and successful efforts to improve primary education by providing 875 new schools this year and 1,017 next year and by gradually extending compulsory education, it is somewhat disappointing that greater provision was not made for secondary education. Many schools have been opened whose net cost is borne by the Government but they have no habitation and proper equipments. The strength of the Law College is said to be going down. Can it be due to the policy of the Government in appointing very raw and junior lawyers as assistant professors? The drastic retrenchment in the Public Works staff may account for the diminished strength of students in the Engineering colleges, but how to account for the same in the Law College?

"In the Local Self-Government department administered by the hon. the Chief Minister, not only greater freedom has been secured to the local bodies, but substantial assistance has been rendered to them to stabilise their finance, but for which they would have been in a hopeless condition by

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now. Communications, medical aid and public health have not escaped his attention. In spite of undeserved odium and hostile criticism, he has established the school of Indian Medicine and recognized the Ayurvedic and Unani systems as requiring State aid and care. He has also introduced medical aid in rural areas and its successful working will pave the way for greater relief. With all that, much more remains to be done to improve communication, health and medical aid. Poor district boards require compassionate grants. Villages require roads and water-supply. Infants require greater care. Epidemics require to be combated. The salaries of health officers are deducted out of grants of second-class roads which were for augmenting the general resources. This must be released and their salaries should be met from provincial funds.

1-45 p.m. "Now that the Religious Endowments Act is an accomplished fact, it is earnestly hoped that the hon. the Minister will work it in a smooth and successful way, with due regard to the susceptibilities and sentiments of those that are affected by it and without attempting violent changes opposed to the customs and usages of the institutions. For, after all, we Hindu Members are interested in the preservation of our ancient religious usages.

"I would also suggest that Government should transfer public buildings and minor irrigation to the control of Local Self-Government, so that the district board engineer and his staff may do such works. There is not much work for them in their respective departments and the district board engineer will be able to cope with them. As a measure of economy, this suggestion may be given effect to.

"I have already adverted to the unsatisfactory progress of the departments under the hon. the Development Minister for which the force of circumstances, and not he, is entirely responsible. These departments are merely marking time. The masses have not yet been benefited in any marked way by the existence of the Agricultural department or the passing of the State Aid to Industries Act. However, in one respect he can do much. Let him give more relief to the poor cattle by establishing more veterinary dispensaries and touring assistants in the Presidency. They are dying of rinderpest and other diseases. If they are saved, it will be a great relief to the ryots.

"I hope that the reduction in the iniquitous impost will be a reality and not a dream and that next year will be a prosperous one with seasonal rains and no devastating floods or famine, so that we may close it with a surplus instead of the anticipated deficit of 88 lakhs."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"It is usual to congratulate the hon. the Finance Member on such occasions as this. But I am afraid that we should, in this year, make a departure. He has represented the Government in the presentation of the budget and we must therefore wholly condemn and censure the Government for the unsatisfactory kind of the budget and of the speech with which it was introduced. When new taxes were imposed some years ago, soon after the Councils were formed, it was understood that some years afterwards, these taxes would be either remitted completely or considerably reduced. But there is absolutely no ray of hope in that line. Incomes have been increasing and expenditure also has been increasing more and more. Without any pang of conscience, if the Government have any, they have said that a large portion of this expenditure is due

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to the increase in the salaries of the various officers. We have been saying over and over again that the Government must reduce the expenditure by way of establishments in the higher services. There are people like the Editor of the *Madras Mail* and his folk, who may be amazed at a statement like that. But we are not surprised at such things because they are steeped in ignorance. They do not care to remember this Council passed two years ago, by way of recommendation to the Government, that both the salaries and the number of the higher officers should be curtailed. They do not remember even what the self-sacrificing Indian Officers' Association stated before the Lee Commission in their memorial. The country, as a whole, demands that the pay and the number of officers in the higher services should be curtailed. We know the Editor of the *Madras Mail* and his colleagues care only for highly paid European officers, and justify their salaries and increments.

"My friend from Coimbatore was referring to the question of votables and non-votables. I do not know whether there is any use at all in referring to it.

"But the whole question is this. We in the Council are only regarded as advisory committees. The Government have been dealing with the advisory committees for their own purposes. If they record any resolution in their favour, it is published, tom-tommed and all that. If any resolution is passed by these committees against the Government, it is considered as advisory. Curiously enough, the Finance Committee undergoes the same fate."

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"I should like to know under what statute the Finance Committee is appointed."

MR. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR:—"The Finance Committee is appointed under the rules framed under the statute of this Council. Confidential papers are placed before the Finance Committee and they are asked whether they would recommend certain schemes or not. The Committee unanimously refuses to recommend certain applications and yet we see that afterwards they are sanctioned by the Government and they add to the deficit.

"Another point I want to say is this. So far as the question of the cotton excise duties is concerned, the master-juggler in Delhi has very carefully omitted to say anything in his long budget speech about it. Our own conviction is that the question is a national one between India on the one hand and England and its ally Japan on the other, whereas the question of provincial contributions is a matter of a large amount of money to the provinces. Therefore, many of us would certainly like to have both. The excise duty is to be removed and the provincial contribution to be reduced and gradually to be completely remitted. If one only reads the speech of the hon. the Finance Member in the Assembly, he can very well see that there is a large surplus in the income of the last year and of the current year. Whenever there is no surplus, they want more taxes. Whenever the taxes yield surplus, they find out magical wands as it were to turn those surpluses. They want to add to the reserve and provide for railways, etc. As the *Hindu* recently remarked, the Finance Member has been always exaggerating the expenditure in the budget and therefore I say that provision can easily be made for about 3 crores to remove the cotton excise duties.

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Three crores of duties mean at least 100 crores in the price of cloth. There can be no doubt that if these 3 crores are released in the price of cloth, the benefit will go to the consumer. Even if it were otherwise, it will go to the pockets of the Indian millowners and the money will be spent in India. Therefore, we must be careful in expressing any opinion of preference of the one or the other. I hope this House will not be drawn into the trap of saying that this is preferable to the other because we will be unnecessarily creating ill-feeling to our sister province, Bombay, and we will be doing great harm to the cotton industry that is rising in this Presidency also.

"Well, Sir, I wish to refer to the question of retrenchment. The Government should take some steps to reduce the emoluments of officers. May I appeal to the hon. Ministers and to the Executive Members, especially the Indian portion, to voluntarily and kindly forego a large portion of their pay? About Rs. 3,000 or Rs. 3,500 should be reasonable consistent with their dignity and the national welfare of the country. Finally, Sir, I would implore the Government and His Excellency to do something in the current year by way of appointing a committee which will reduce the number and pay of the various officers in the higher departments.

"Coming to the Budget, I do not think it matters very much whether any item is votable or non-votable. One thing is peculiar, that the reserved portion contributes to about 13 crores of expenses and there is a large number of non-votable highly paid officers, whereas the transferred half gets only about 4 crores.

"It was said that this Council did not represent the masses and that we did not insist on spending more money on villages. Now it is otherwise and we insist that the Local Self-Government Department and the hon. the Finance Member should spend more money to improve the local sanitation of villages, especially by way of providing for roads, water-supply and medical relief.

"I do not want to go at this stage into the question whether Ayurvedic and Unani systems are preferable to western methods. It will be a good lesson to the people to learn the Ayurvedic and Unani systems of medicine for they will know how vegetables and drugs can be used for medicinal purposes. I do not know how much will be available out of the 126 lakhs for the benefit of villages. We hope that a large sum out of that will be given to the development of villages.

"A second point in which the villagers are interested is elementary education. We are in the unfortunate position of having a number of citadels without any foundation. We have a number of officers in each district without any money for them to spend. We have gigantic elementary education councils without practically any money to use. The hon. the Minister is going to say that in the budget for 1925-26 he has provided for all that the Educational councils want. They have not yet sent their budgets and unfortunately last year's experience has shown that there is no use of asking money. They are trying to curtail their demands. Practically nothing has been provided for village school buildings. The same thing can be said of secondary education.

"There is no subsidy to be given to schoolmasters. There again, the secondary education boards give their elaborate opinions and the result, I

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am afraid, is a big zero. Therefore I hope that more grants will be given to buildings and establishments for higher schools in the Presidency.

"One word about the first grade colleges. I am one of those who strongly want a first grade college in Palghat. But it is too early to say as to what its fate will be in the Cabinet. Anyhow, we require a first grade college for the West Coast.

"As for universities, the less said, the better. Big name, long Act, but
2 p.m. no money. And we are going to have some more universities. I would rather prefer that the first born child is well nourished and is not allowed to die a natural death or live a starved life before other children or other universities are brought into existence.

"So far as the Excise Department is concerned, it is a deplorable tale. We have an excellent Minister in thoughts at the head of the department, but in action he has been more or less reactionary. No attempt of his has been of any use. Debate after debate has been raised, cut after cut has been proposed, speech after speech has been made with the result that what was only three crores of revenue a few years ago has now increased to five or five and a half crores. It is growing like a monster. But what is curious is this—I think it has not been published but will be published in a day or two—what was till now the Transferred Provincial subject of Excise is going practically to be converted by one shake of the magical wand of the Government of India into a Central subject as it were. I am not here going to refer to the Local Option Bill since I have not got the final answer in my hands. I am told that the Government of India have refused permission to introduce such a Bill. I think the sooner we end such shams as Transferred subjects and Provincial subjects the better. If a Minister is given the responsibility and if we are given the right of controlling his work his words should be respected not merely by this Council, not merely by his colleagues in the Government but also by the Government of India. So far as the Excise department is concerned, if the Local Option Bill is introduced, the Advisory Committee will be able to do something. I hope that it will not be rejected by the Government of India.

"As for the Development Minister I do not want to say much. So far as the State Aid to Industries Act is concerned I must say that though I am a Member of the Committee the Act is not administered as liberally as it should be. The amount granted as loans is not as large as it should be. If there is any difficulty in the Act as to whether several applications come under the Act or not, as there seems to be at present, the sooner we amend the Act the better. If the relief given is to be of any use we must find out means of giving more money to the various firms that apply for grants.

"With regard to Agriculture, no doubt money is being spent on the Agricultural College and other institutions. We want more money to be spent on the various junior officers at the bottom who might go to the various villages and farms and teach the rustics a better and more useful way of cultivating their lands scientifically. But so far as I have been able to see, even villages near Coimbatore have not to any extent been materially benefited by the Agricultural College and by the large expenditure that is being incurred. I hope things will improve and somehow or other more money will be spent for improving the agriculture of the country.

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"As for industries, let us hope that something more substantial will be done. There is still something or other being experimented on. Government should be able to find out some new industries which would be useful to the country and improve them.

"As I said, Sir, from all points of view the budget that has been presented to us is not a satisfactory one and unless there is a change in the heart of the Government there is absolutely no use in our going through this farce; for I consider this discussion of the budget as a huge costly farce just like the jamabandi in the districts. We come here, make speeches, and sometimes very rarely make cuts. All these are brushed aside. Last year there was a cut to the effect that the Board of Revenue should be abolished. We wanted the stamp duties to be reduced; Government said, 'No' to all these. We wanted the judicial and the executive functions to be separated; Government said, 'No' to this. What is the use of the farce of wasting so much of our time and of the time of the Government? We come here and make speeches; they are reported; sometimes the two sides join together and make some important cuts; but we wake to find that they are all brushed aside and that we are no better than we were. There is absolutely no use of all these discussions unless the Government changes its heart. I appeal to the Government, and especially to the Indian Members and the Ministers, to change their hearts. Let the Indian Members and the Ministers so conduct themselves that their presence is felt and their powers recognized. If anything serious happens to jeopardise their power and popularity, let them resign. Government cannot afford to let them resign. If the Ministers are sincere and say they would resign unless they are allowed to push on with the schemes for the improvement of education, health and sanitation, etc., of people, they would be able to improve the condition of the country.

"Lastly I appeal to the hon. the Law Member to show his sympathies with regard to the irrigation of the country in action. He told us last year that he would make big cuts in the Police department but we find none at all. We wanted the number of Indians as district judges to be improved; he told us that he was waiting for the report of the Lee Commission. The Lee Commission Report has come and gone with an addition of ten lakhs to our expenditure. I appeal to him to do something to increase the number of Indian Judges."

* Mr. B. RAMACHANDRA REDDI :—"Sir, the hon. the Minister for Education is of course making laudable attempts for the early realization of the Andhra University, but I am afraid he has not been able to make much advance in the path of success. Whether it is due to the bad finances of the Government or whether it is on account of other extraneous circumstances over which he might not have control, the matter is still being postponed; and another attempt is now made probably to postpone its early realization by appointing a special officer for its creation at a cost of Rs. 11,000, which is provided for in the budget under discussion. May I suggest, Sir, that pending its early realization, the hon. the Education Minister might think of redressing certain of the grievances of Andhras in the Educational Service? There is now once more set on foot an agitation for better recognition of Andhra talent in the Service. It is said that only eight Andhras have been taken into the Provincial Educational Service (Madras Education Services) and only one into the Indian Educational Service ever since the inauguration of the Educational Department, and that out of

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79 posts in the Collegiate branch of the Subordinate Educational Service only 15 are held by the Andhras, and in the three posts outside the cadre, there is not even one Andhra. There are such other difficulties which the hon Minister must try to redress ere long.

"There is another clamour loudly made not by Andhras alone, but by all people in the Province, regarding the inadequate pay of officers in the Subordinate Educational Service. Whereas in the Public Works and Judicial departments the Services have been placed above corruption by increasing their pay, 200 or 300 per cent all on a sudden, the responsible officers in the Education Department on whom depends the very development of the nation have not been placed above want. It is regrettable that though a small remission of 126 lakhs from the provincial contribution is assured, and though, as the hon. the Finance Member has said, a bigger slice has been swallowed by the hon. the Education Minister from the amount doled out to the Transferred departments, nothing has been done or even attempted to be done in alleviating the sufferings of the officers in the Subordinate Educational Service. Some sections of the service also are corruptible and let me sound a note of warning, Sir, that any delay in redressing their grievances is likely to drive them desperate into corruption which from the national point of view is a degeneration.

"Too many promises have been made by the Government and much has been expected of them regarding the reinstating of village officers who have been uncharitably sent out as a consequence of the unwise policy of regrouping of villages. Till to-day they have not come to a decision, and when they are willing to arrive at one is not perhaps known even to them.

"A further difficulty under which the village headmen suffer is regarding the batta which they are now ordered to receive when attending criminal courts. It is the well-known policy of Government, Sir, that whenever finances are likely to be touched honour is spoken of in loud terms, and when honour is touched finances are spoken of in louder terms; and when both of them are touched at once, silence is the only argument that the Government advance. This is really deplorable, and the Government cannot successfully shut the eyes of the people for all time. It is high time, Sir, that the Government should try to think more briskly about these vital points, and decide soon in favour of reinstating the removed village officers, and of allowing second class batta as formerly when headmen attend criminal courts on Government business. I am sure, Sir, that the latter suggestion will not put the Government to any great expense.

"Turning to the Veterinary department, I wish to throw out a couple of suggestions for the Government to think about. The touring Veterinary assistants are not able to turn out much work on account of various reasons. They are turning out only half as much work as an equal number of assistants are doing in hospitals and dispensaries. Taking the figures available for the last three years, we find the following:

Year.	Touring officers.	Number of cases treated	Officers in hospitals and dispensaries.	Number of cases treated.
1921-22	64	42,837	63	72,969
1922-23	70	45,120	65	80,924
1923-24	72	40,030	71	82,401

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2-15 p.m. "The propaganda work for which the touring system has been inaugurated at first, is well nigh over, and the villagers are now aware that there is a department called the Veterinary department maintained by the Government and that treatment to animals is given by that department. But they are not aware where to get the treatment as there are not sufficient number of dispensaries to resort to throughout the length and breadth of the districts, and the few assistant surgeons are not available to the villagers as they will be touring during a greater part of the month. It is therefore time, Sir, that this touring system must be put an end to all these touring officers being stationed in well-equipped hospitals and dispensaries at various convenient centres. The amount saved from the travelling allowances of these officers may be utilized for equipping new hospitals and dispensaries.

"Secondly, the pay of the veterinary assistant surgeons and their emoluments are too low to be neglected any longer. Without the hope of private practice, with always the fearful necessity of dealing with animals which amply return them with kicks and butts, with very little certainty of remaining at home throughout the month, the condition of these veterinary officers is really deplorable, and needs remedy as early as possible.

"From the department that gives medical aid to animals, I now proceed to the department that gives medical aid to human beings. The rural medical scheme which was received by this House, and by the public at large, with so much of satisfaction, has not proved to be very effective, and is not going to be a success if things do not improve, if more money is not allotted for that, and if systems other than the allopathic are not given preference. No doubt it is too early to pronounce any opinion for or against the existing system. It is within the knowledge of everybody that an allopathic system will be a failure without proper equipment. It is a system of bottles and instruments and assistants. In the absence of proper provision for all these, the expected result will not be produced. At least, to begin with, provision must be made for a midwife in every one of these new dispensaries on a decent pay. Then again, it is needless to say once more and that to the hon. the Minister for Local Self-Government, that an early inauguration of the indigenous systems in these new dispensaries is the only and possible way of making the scheme a success.

"The hon. the Chief Minister deserves the hearty encomiums of all Indians, both Brahmans and non-Brahmans, for the very successful effort he has made in the realization of the fond hope of developing the indigenous systems of medicine by establishing the school of Indian Medicine. But, Sir, many more of that sort must be established, and I hope the hon. the Minister will leave no stone unturned to have it done."

Mr. P. SIVA RAO:—"Sir, our finances at present present a woeful tale. We have landed ourselves in a heavy deficit of 88 lakhs. The national services are practically starved. There has been no appreciable progress towards nation-building. Our total indebtedness will have risen to about 12 crores. And to cover our deficit anticipated in the current year and for other purposes we have to borrow further a sum of nearly 2 crores.

"It will be useful to inquire into the causes that have led to this calamity. Adverse seasons and flood havoc in some places account for a small fall in the revenues of the current year. It was anticipated that the year 1924-25

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would close with a surplus of about 15 lakhs. Results have completely falsified the expectations entertained a year ago and the current year according to the revised estimate is likely to close with a deficit of about 32 lakhs.

"The expenditure has grown enormously from the year 1921. From the total expenditure of 1,101 lakhs during the pre-Reform year of 1920-21 charged to Revenue it rose to about 16 crores between 1921 and 1925 and it will mount up to, according to the budget estimates for the coming year, about 17 crores, nearly a crore over the expenditure of the previous year. The salary bill which has immensely swollen in recent years may account for a portion of the increase. The working of the Reforms which is a costly experiment may account for some. The carrying out of the recommendations of the Lee Commission report which were imposed on us in defiance of the united wishes of the people has added to our troubles. In spite of all these, allowances being made for all this increased expenditure, one cannot help feeling that there is something rotten in the State of Denmark, and that somebody is fiddling while Rome is burning.

"Unless the pruning knife is vigorously applied in all departments there is no hope of salvation, or of bettering our financial condition. Our finances are becoming worse day by day in spite of the levy of additional taxation in the form of court fees and stamp and registration fees. The additional taxes which were cleverly ushered in as being transient and temporary are threatening to be permanent. The one solution of our difficulty lies in our securing relief from the iniquitous burden of the provincial contributions. We have been paying a very heavy sum of 348 lakhs to the Government of India. The long looked-for relief though to a small extent is in sight. The hon. the Finance Member, while introducing the budget in the Government of India, has proposed a remission of 126 lakhs in favour of Madras. It is too much to say whether the proposal will be finally passed by the Legislative Assembly or not. Powerful forces and counter-forces have been at work and it is not possible to predict what turn the events will take in the next few days. It is not for money doles or charity that we have been asking. I quite agree with the hon. the Finance Member when he states in his speech that we ourselves are not asking for a remission of our contributions as charity but as a right to which we are entitled as soon as the finances of the Government of India permit. It was on this ground that we put forward our claim when we had to give our evidence before Lord Meston's Committee. Anybody who turns to the history of these contributions will be convinced of our position. When as a result of the Reforms the heads of revenue which hitherto remained divided were abolished and complete fiscal autonomy was granted to the provinces in respect of the departments committed to their care, it was conceded that all the collections made within the limits of a province out of the heads of revenue allocated to its charge must properly appertain to that province, and that it could be appropriated by the Government of India for certain imperial purposes or during critical times as during war. And these contributions were levied at the time in view of the severe stringency of the then existing finances of the Government of India with a distinct undertaking that they would gradually be remitted and finally extinguished as soon as circumstances permitted. The pledge or undertaking was not made conditional upon our keeping the cotton excise duty intact. I quite agree with the hon. the Finance Member that we should

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give a clear mandate on the question of provincial contributions to our representatives in the Legislative Assembly and ask him to make a vigorous and strenuous effort to support the proposal for remission to the full extent proposed in the budget. I agree with him only so far and no farther in this matter. I strongly differ from him when he says 'the choice is between the needs of our people and the profits of the mill-owners', nor can I persuade myself to think like him that the removal of the cotton excise duty would have no effect in cheapening the clothing of the poor or reducing for them the cost of living. I am absolutely convinced that if the price of cloth is reduced and that even if the whole of the benefit goes to the all-India mill-owners—I have read sufficient political economy to realize it—the sum so saved for our country will slowly and gradually reach the masses. I am afraid the hon. the Finance Member has put a thoroughly wrong and irrelevant issue before the House. Hon. Sir Basil Blackett did not raise it in that alternative form. You remember that a few years ago the issue was clearly put before the Indian Legislative Assembly whether to leave the salt tax where it was and get a partial remission of contributions or to reduce the tax and not claim any relief. The hon. the Finance Member himself does not present a dilemma for our solution this time. The retention of the cotton excise duty is not made the condition precedent to the grant of the remission, to borrow the lawyer's language. I may candidly say that both the removal of the cotton excise duty and the remission of provincial contribution are possible, just and necessary. Both the ends could be easily achieved if only the Indian Government make up their mind. The Indian Legislative Assembly recently passed a practically unanimous resolution for the abolition of the cotton excise in which members of all shades of opinion, Swarajists, Independents and Liberals, joined. There is obviously pressure exercised from Lancashire. A desperate effort is made by the Government of India to retain the obnoxious cotton excise duty by provoking inter-provincial jealousies for their support and by throwing in a bait in the way of Madras and certain other provinces. Bombay which could not possibly consent to the retention of the cotton excise duty is mercilessly ignored in its claim for remission. It is a clever ruse skilfully resorted to. I have to warn the Members of this House to be wary and not to fall into the trap laid for them by deciding issues which do not properly arise before them. If I am asked the hypothetical question, which do you prefer, abolition of cotton excise or relief in contributions, I may answer the issue does not arise. I decline to pass any judgment, but I do not feel shy of the matter. If it is necessary for me to answer this question, I would most unhesitatingly answer, remission or no remission, remove the cotton excise which is an age-long and chronic evil of the country. We want protection both against Lancashire and also Japan. The removal of excise duty will benefit the whole of India and is of national importance—it has been a cry in the wilderness raised for about half a century—whereas the remission of contribution will benefit only Madras. Cloth is the most primary necessity of life and India must be self-sufficing and all shackles imposed against its productivity should be removed at all costs.

"Lastly, I allude to a matter which affects our famine stricken districts of Bellary and Anantapur. In December the House passed an almost unanimous resolution for the reduction of certain resettlement rates proposed for the western or the red-soil taluks of the Bellary district. We thought the same principle would apply to the eastern or the black cotton soil taluks

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also, as to which orders had been passed in 1922, though its introduction had been postponed on account of the seasonal conditions then prevailing. We are anxious to know whether the resolution passed by the House has been accepted by the Government; if so, whether the same principle has been extended to the eastern taluks as well and the orders passed in 1922 have been accordingly revised; and, lastly, how much credit is taken for revenue on that account in the coming year and at what rates."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA:—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to point out that I miss very much in the budget estimates, statement or memorandum, the Gladstonian method of exposition and elucidation of the policy and principles underlying important changes in the figures instead of the British-Indian system of mere explanation (admirable as it is here) of the relation of the figures to one another which result in the members of the Council groping and striking about in the dark, followed by Government Members and Ministers exposing our folly rather than our wisdom in attacking this point or that. The old speeches of Finance Ministers like Gladstone and others used to expound the policy and principles that underlay important changes in the administration. Here we find nothing of the sort. We proceed to attack the budget estimates; but then the Ministers or Members come forward and say: 'Oh! this attack is not called for; this is absurd; that is so and so.' We are made fools of. Therefore instead of criticising the budget estimates, I approach the Government Executive Members and Ministers with a number of queries which I hope they will answer at the close of the present general discussion of the budget. Afterwards we may come forward with our attacks on the right points when the budget is discussed in detail. My first question is why opportunity was not taken of the vacancy of the Revenue Membership to reduce the number of Executive Members on the Treasury Bench to three, which would enable the House to reduce the Ministers to two, and whether the functions of two Executive Members as before could not be done by three Executive Members and two Ministers.

2-30 p.m. "Formerly, we had only two Members of the Executive Council in Madras, and so also in Bombay, and these two Members of the Government did all the work which four Executive Councillors and three Ministers are supposed to do at present. I really wonder what they are really doing. The one great feature which I am opposed to is the grand tours of the Ministers with receptions, banquets, garden parties, and their making grand speeches adumbrating big schemes which are never carried out. They are doing, I am afraid, more electioneering tours with speeches than things which would be of any use to the country. What I would ask is, why should not the Ministers sometimes pay surprise visits, instead of giving long notices of their movements beforehand, and see how things are getting on? Then they will be able to see and tell us something of facts. They will not also give such answers as 'The Government have no information.' I really wonder why they cannot get real information, and what after all is the trouble they would have to take to find out the real state of things in the country? I put a question about a year ago whether the hon. the Chief Minister was aware that our town of Mangalore was infested with lepers, and the reply was 'Government have no information'. As a matter of fact, the hon. the Chief Minister had visited our town of Mangalore twice before, once to only open a bridge, though it was hardly necessary for him to do so, and yet he

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was not aware that our town is infested with lepers. Anybody who passes over our roads, if he has eyes to see and observe things with, can easily know the fact. What is the use of replying that the Government have no information on such a vitally important matter as that? We now find a lot of people busying themselves about the question of leprosy because the Viceroy and other big people have moved in the matter. Why could not Government get at it before? Any local officer, the Collector or the chairman of the municipality, could have easily given the information. It is all very well to dance about, now that the Viceroy and others are moving in the matter, but it was then *suo motu* really a question of doing something humanitarian to the people, but in this cause the Ministers were nowhere and did nothing.

"Another point I want to touch is on the lying-in hospital at Mangalore. It is such a disgrace to the Government and the public that I think the hon. the Chief Minister should have known it two years ago when he visited that institution. I have seen with my own eyes 11 or 12 women in the maternity ward, which is not more than 12 by 20 feet. In this, these women were huddled together in the most miserable condition. And I am told that sometimes it is even worse, and if the hon. the Minister did come to know of it, I am sure he should have done something. We in Mangalore have now collected about Rs. 20,000 and applied for some provision being made. I find nothing in the budget which shows an attempt at least to meet us half-way and give us something so that we can start the hospital at once. It is so very badly needed and I want to know what the Government is going to do in this matter, in the way of giving us something. We have got only about Rs. 20,000 and we want something more to begin the work at once.

"The Indian Lepers Act was passed in the year 1898 and as yet Government have taken no measures whatever for the last 20 years to provide us with any large hospital or give adequate aid to the existing leper asylums in Mangalore and elsewhere. Now at last comes the big scheme of a leper colony at Chingleput which has been pitched upon us without taking the public into confidence and ascertaining the general opinion whether a large leper colony at a cost of several lakhs of rupees in Chingleput district would satisfy the needs and conveniences of the whole Presidency. Every leper would naturally wish to remain in a place near his own and among people talking the same language as he does, and do you expect that people from Malabar or Kanara would willingly go all the way to the Chingleput district for being properly housed, treated and taken care of? Apart from that, the question is whether Government is now entrusting the work to a society which would economically carry out the functions of a leper asylum. Dealing with lepers is a thing of a very difficult nature, and among us, Roman Catholics, we have got religious orders several centuries old who have been dealing with this question, who have been looking after lepers as a labour of love, who have given up the world and whose one object in life is the care of the sick even at the risk and sacrifice of their lives. Men and women like Father Daniel have contracted leprosy in order to save lepers and have died as lepers. Such religious persons can do useful work. As a matter of fact we find at Chingleput an arrangement was arrived at with a religious order in the year 1913, and we have not heard much of it afterwards. Now at last, as a very big scheme is started from big quarters,

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the question has been taken up, but the question is whether the Government is really going to provide us with a suitable leper asylum in the country which will be useful and at the same time will be economically and humanely managed.

“ Another point I want to mention is this. I want to know why the Government have not abolished the Fisheries Department as proposed by the Retrenchment Committee and whether it would not be more economical to get the fishing yards supervised by the officials of the Customs Department as in the Bombay Presidency, why Government sought to make their factories (soap, ink, jam and fish canning) more profit-making than educative for the industrially inclined people and what measures Government have taken or contemplate taking in order to advise owners of industries in the matter of improving them in various ways. This is very important because at present the policy of the department is to make the concerns only profit-making ones. I think that the hon. the Minister for Development is under the impression that our party insists on the principle of these concerns being profit-making ones. It is most important from our point of view that they should be of educative value. The soap factory, for instance, can be used for training apprentices who can learn the work in a practical way, who can get experience of mixing and doing other little things by means of which good superior soaps can be made. I admit that superior soaps are being made in these factories, but apprentices are not taken into them in spite of the assurances from the other side. The tendency is to keep these factories as a close preserve for a few people, but they must be made to train other people, so that we may manufacture very superior soaps which can compete with foreign manufactured soaps. There is no use of this department being made the close preserve of a few. I also want to know whether any and what measures were taken by Government for advising owners of industries to improve their industries. I understand that the advice given is useless. It is moreover costly because I am told that high fees are exacted and the advice given is of very little practical use to an outsider.

“ Then, I want to ask what the future excise policy of the Government is. Unfortunately in our Presidency the production and sale of liquor have been developed to a greatly ruinous and dangerous extent. Liquor should be manufactured by reliable firms and such liquor only may be sold but not liquor which is in a very filthy and altogether useless condition, which is more harmful than good. Now, unfortunately these two departments of Excise and Education are in the hands of one Minister, and when he looks at a big educational scheme and wants it carried out, surely he would not be inclined to do anything to reduce the consumption of liquor. Therefore I think the Excise Department should be entirely separated and taken out of the hands of the Ministers and put under a separate and independent body, and until that is done I am sure the Ministers would never take into their serious consideration the question of the reduction of liquor. Bombay has faced this question boldly and has determined to reduce the liquor consumption in spite of reduction of revenue, by means of what is called the rationing system, and it is hoped that that system would reduce the consumption of liquor to nil in the course of twenty years. I do not see any reason why our hon. Minister should not face the question as boldly as the Bombay Government.

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"Another wonder to me is this. Our Education Minister waxes eloquent over free and compulsory education. But at the same time there is an order to increase the fees of school children, in fact to double the fees, and when we asked why he doubled the fees, he says that the fees would be reduced to one half or still less, but in order to be entitled to the reduced fees you must get a certificate that the pupils are poor."

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—"As regards elementary schools, no fees are levied, Sir."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"I am talking of upper secondary schools. I want that all children should be induced to go to such schools, the girls especially. When you speak of free and compulsory education, I fail to see why in the case of girls at least, they should not have the concession of half rates."

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—"On the production of a poverty certificate, half concessions are given to the pupil."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Poverty certificate is not so easy to get. There are many poor people who are not prepared to go to a doctor and ask for a poverty certificate."

Mr. S. ARPUDASWAMI UDAYAR :—"One need not go to a doctor for a certificate, Sir. The certificate here in question is a poverty certificate to be got from an officer."

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"Even then they will feel it very painful to go to anybody and ask for a certificate of poverty. It is not at all a pleasant thing. There are hundreds of people I know who are poor and at the same time have a sense of dignity. They will not go and obtain a certificate of poverty. (At this stage the gong was sounded.)"

Mr. J. A. SALDANHA :—"I want to know what is the policy of the Government in the matter of adopting measures for the restriction and prevention of constant accidents from motor vehicles which are proving a great danger to the passers by."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasaya :—"Mr. Deputy President, Sir, this is the fifth budget that we have seen after the Reforms. It is usual on these occasions to pour praises on the hon. the Finance Member and the Finance Secretary. Unfortunately this year we have very little to praise the hon. the Finance Member for, though we will not be doing our duty if we do not appreciate the fine and lucid statement that is furnished to us by the Finance Secretary. Well, Sir, looking into the budget one finds the usual happy position of a deficit budget. A deficit budget I deliberately call 'happy' in the case of an irresponsible Bureaucracy which is not responsible to the vote of the House. I ask the hon. Mr. Graham if he as a British citizen would tolerate it if the

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British Parliament were presented with such a budget consecutively for years together. He as a British citizen would certainly not only protest against it but would go far and turn out the Government which framed it. I think it is in the Legislative Assembly, Sir, that Sir H. M. Gour said to the Government, 'If you cannot manage, leave it to other hands who could well manage it.' That would be the only comment that could be made in criticising a budget of the kind that we have

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before us. The unfortunate position is that year after year we have been told that our finances would improve, and unfortunately it is never our good luck to see that our finances have actually improved. Looking into the previous years, from the memorandum furnished by the Finance Secretary, we find that in the pre-Reform days we were having a good opening balance as also a closing balance—opening and closing balances amounting to crores of rupees. I believe in the year 1916-17 we had as much as Rs 1½ crores as opening balance and a closing balance of Rs. 1.10 crores, and what is our position now? Our position is an empty chest, and the Finance Member says 'Come and have the key at any time you please.' That is the happy position of the hon. the Finance Member. This, Sir, is horrible and unthinkable. I call it horrible to borrow money to meet the current expenditure of Government. It is a bad financial policy and makes the Government irresponsible when they borrow money without resorting to taxation. I would refer the hon. the Finance Member to the Montford Report, page 208, paragraph 256, where the illustrious authors of the Report say 'If the revenue is insufficient for the needs, the question of new taxation will be decided by the Governor and the Ministers.' I would ask the Treasury Bench to go to the countryside with new taxation measures and justify their action. That should be the right attitude of the Executive instead of borrowing money and growing more and more irresponsible year after year and time after time.

"Sir, a bait has been thrown in his speech that some consideration would be shown to the Transferred subjects if the contribution is remitted. I would very strongly protest against such baits, and I deliberately call them 'baits'. Because to us it is very difficult to decide one way or the other, whether to agree to a reduction of the cotton excise duty or to the Provincial contribution. Looking into his budget speech, he has amply justified himself and the action of the Reserved Half which he calls as 'modest', and it is only the Transferred Half that has been starved, and I do not know what he would call it. Then he gradually brings in the question of the dead-weight debt which he would redeem if he gets the contribution remitted. I would appeal to the House to seriously consider this aspect of the question and never agree to anything of the kind. I would reject the budget as also the suggestion regarding remission with all the scorn it deserves unless and until we are assured, as we were given to understand for the last four or five years, that the whole of this amount will be utilized for the Transferred departments."

The hon. the DEPUTY PRESIDENT :—"I appeal to the hon. Member not to use too colloquial words like 'abominable', 'scorn', etc."

Sriman BISWANATH DAS Mahasayo :—"Thanks, Sir, I bow to you. Then, Sir, there is a limit to our patience (laughter). Just after the Reforms we approved of the taxation measures on the ground that the times were abnormal. Well, the abnormal times have changed and we are now in normal times for the last two years. In other provinces, the taxation measures have been removed from the Statute Book. Well, Sir, other provinces like Bengal while giving their consent to the taxation measures made the Government to commit themselves to spend a certain portion of the increased stamp and registration fees on the Transferred departments, and nothing of the kind was insisted upon in our province. All those measures

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were assented to here by us and still we are where we were. All these go to show that the Executive have become very irresponsible; they have grown more irresponsible than they were before.

"Then, I come to the number of Executive Councillors. I believe three years ago it was on the motion of my hon. Friend from Madras, Mr. Tanikachalam Chetti, that we practically unanimously accepted a resolution reducing the number of Executive Councillors to three. To an interpellation put from this side of the House, the hon. the Finance Member says that he has communicated the resolution to the Government of India without caring to inform us what the opinion of this Government was on the question, without caring to tell us what action the Government of India has taken on it. Though the illustrious authors of the Montford Report thought a strength of two for the Executive Council was sufficient, an option was given by the Joint Committee either to make it two or four and our Government want to have it at the full maximum strength of four, and also to have the maximum amount of salary fixed for them under the Act. All these again confirm our opinion that once the bureaucracy got into power they would never part with it and that once they are accustomed to draw high salaries they never consent to lose them.

"Then, Sir, I am sorry that without caring for the elementary necessities of the people of this province, all at once a provision of Rs. 9 lakhs has been made for increasing the pay of Imperial Officers with retrospective effect. I would very strongly protest against such an action, because this Council with an unanimous voice has repudiated the conclusions of a committee, about the personnel of which or about the terms of reference of which neither this House nor the Legislative Assembly had been consulted. And without caring to ascertain the needs of the people, without even caring to wait and see what Parliament is going to do, the Government of Madras have budgeted for Rs. 9 lakhs as if to show we are more anxious than the officers themselves. I would put to the Ministers a straight question as to what was the reason that led them to consent to this provision being made in the budget. Because under the Montford Report and under the Government of India Act they are also responsible for the framing of the budget. I think they ought to have protested against this provision and, if necessary, to have threatened with their resignation on the ground that Parliament has yet to come to any conclusion on the subject.

"Then, I come to the very important question of taxation on executive authority. Looking into the report of the Joint Committee, in Part V, paragraph 11, we find this:

'The Committee are impressed by the objections raised by many witnesses to the manner in which certain classes of taxation can be levied upon the people of India by executive action without, in some cases, any statutory limitation of the rates and, in other cases, any adequate prescription by statute of the methods of assessment. They consider that the imposition of new burdens should be gradually brought more within the purview of the Legislature.'

"I am sorry, Sir, that this important principle has not been translated into action. I believe this is one reason why the Executive have grown more irresponsible than they used to be in the pre-Reform days, and it pains me to see that the Ministers who are solely and wholly responsible to the Legislature which consists of elected members representing the people of this province should have themselves enhanced registration fees, excise duties, so on and so forth without caring to come to the Legislature with a resolution

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for approval. I have tabled more than four times resolutions calling the attention of this House to the fact that they must come to some decision on this point. But unfortunately we never reached that item on the agenda and my resolutions could not therefore be discussed. I therefore take this opportunity of drawing the serious attention of the House to this fact and I appeal to the Ministers to see for themselves whether they would themselves trespass the recommendations of the Joint Committee the products of which they are supposed to be.

"Lastly, Sir, this year I consider as a black year in the history of the Legislative Council, black year in the sense that the Executive have ensnared and taken away three Members of this House into their services, three of my hon. Friends who represented Nellore, Kurnool and South Kanara. They have been taken as public prosecutors, and what pains me most is that it should have been done by no less a person than my hon. Friend Mr. C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar, a stout champion of democracy, once a Secretary of the Indian National Congress, and one who in a way has done his part in getting the Reforms of 1920. With these general observations, I shall enter into the discussion of certain items of the budget if I have time." (The gong was sounded and the hon. Member resumed his seat).

MR. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—“Mr. President, Sir, in beginning to speak on the present budget, certainly I shall have to associate myself with the hon. Members who have preceded me in saying that I cannot congratulate either the Government or the hon. the Finance Member for the budget which he has placed in our hands. Certainly I am not saying it is the duty of the hon. the Finance Member or of the Government to find out more means to meet the expenses which they propose to make. What they say is ‘we have to spend Rs. 17½ crores; we have got only Rs. 16½ crores and we are going to borrow the other crore.’ I do not say that you should raise further taxation. What I say is, cut down the expenditure and bring it well below the level of revenues. The rate of expenditure has increased to a very large extent during the last half a dozen years. We had the Reforms in the year 1920, at the end of the year 1920, and from 1921 the revenues of this province have been steadily growing and the expenditure also has been steadily increasing and what else do we find? The debt of the province has also been steadily growing.

“I cannot understand this position of a province where the revenue is growing, where the expenditure is growing and also the debt is growing year after year. I am afraid the Government seem to feel that the more you earn, the more you ought to spend. I am only surprised that the Government of India is always coming to the help of the Government of Madras by lending money for its expenses. I can understand the Central Government lending money for productive works such as irrigation, etc.; but certainly I cannot understand the Government of India lending money for the purpose of carrying on the administration of the province. Let us compare the figures available to us and see how my statement is borne out. In the year 1890-91, the revenue of the province was 708 lakhs and the expenditure 371 lakhs. Thirty years after, in the year in which the reforms were introduced, the revenue was 1,516 lakhs and the expenditure 1,130 lakhs. In 1924-25, the income is 1,631 lakhs and the expenditure 1,663 lakhs. In 1925-26, the budget is for an income of Rs. 1,651 and an expenditure of 1,733 lakhs. So much so, during the thirty years

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from 1890 to 1920, the income we see has doubled itself; but the expenditure has more than trebled. In 1920-25, the income has increased by a crore and a half and the expenditure by six crores. Of course, in these figures that I have quoted some portion represents amounts for productive works such as irrigation. I do not complain of money being spent for purposes which will produce an income, which will advance the welfare of the country. But certainly the cost of the administration is growing by leaps and bounds year after year so much so that one is bound to take note of where we are before we venture with a budget of uncalled for and unnecessary expenditure. I am constrained to say that it is unnecessary expenditure. What is the debt of the province? It was $11\frac{1}{2}$ crores in April 1923 and about the same figure in April 1924. And it has become 12.82 crores in 1925 and in April for 1926 it will be $14\frac{1}{2}$ crores. Our debt is thus increasing and, not only this, we have to pay an annual interest of 53 lakhs for the money borrowed from the Central Government. We are therefore incurring greater and greater liabilities by way of interest every year. How are we to meet these demands? One year of administration and a greater liability for the future generation, that is the position we are in. The present Government does not seem to consider what legacy we are to leave behind us, whether it is going to be a legacy of debt or a legacy of prosperity, if they go on with this policy of carrying out what they think they must do at present. I do not at all appreciate the position of the Government which says that it wants to borrow even though it be for the purpose of merely carrying on the administration. That is why many people really consider that the whole reforms is a farce, it is not intended for the welfare of the people and that it is only intended for the betterment of a few and to furnish a dignified debating society for the purpose of discussing and not doing anything substantial. We shall have to consider how the man in the street has been impressed by the whole affair. It is true that more gentlemen have been employed in the Government service and more are receiving good pay. It is also a fact that Members like myself and my hon. Colleagues here have now opportunities of expressing their views on the administration in general. But may I ask how it helps the man in the street? Various sorts of taxes have been imposed; the land revenue has been increased; the stamp fee which he has to pay for obtaining redress in courts has been made more costly; the excise duty has been increased; the registration fee has been increased; and by the advent of reforms the man in the street has to bear a large burden and he has to pay much more than what he was paying previously. Let us consider what he gets in return for these increased payments of nearly $1\frac{1}{2}$ times. Certainly he pays more; and if the occupants of the Treasury Bench can, I would ask them to refute me when I say that they have not got any advantage from these additional payments at all, beyond what they had been deriving five years ago. That has been the grievance everywhere. So, instead of having to face always this grim situation, I would recommend, especially when the Government of India has given us a reduction of 126 lakhs in the contribution to the Central Government, a reduction in some of these taxes which were introduced subsequent to 1920.

"For instance, there is the stamp duty. The court-fees were raised by 50 per cent throughout in the year 1922. It was then understood—I do not remember the exact statement made but I do remember that the understanding was—that it should be a temporary measure to meet the

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extraordinary contingencies that had then risen. Now those extraordinary conditions, I believe, have ceased to exist and yet the rates have not yet been reduced. So far as I know, the general understanding seems to be that the administration of justice ought not to be made a source of revenue. In England, practically there is little of court-fees and in America, I am told, there are no stamp fees even on applications. But in this country we have to pay very heavily for asserting our claims in courts of law. I may be met with an answer that our country is not rich enough and the sources of income in other directions too are not so great as to maintain the cost of judicial administration without independent taxation. So, I will for the present be content if the revenue from judicial administration is just made commensurate with the cost of administration. But if the Government want to make a profit out of it, certainly it is a proposition which many Members would not accede to if there is to be frank-speaking. Let us see if this is really so.

"From the returns I find that for the year 1924-25 the money realized from judicial stamps is 146½ lakhs and other sources of income amount to 15 lakhs, thus making a total of 161 lakhs by judicial stamps and by the administration of justice. The total expense comes to 95 lakhs. So that, during the year 1924-25, there has been a net profit of 66 lakhs from the administration of justice. Probably I may be met with an answer that a portion of this profit includes (it is not explained here what that amount is and I expect that the hon. the Finance Member or the Finance Secretary will in their reply tell us what it is) amounts that we have to pay for pensions to the judicial officers who have retired."

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—"It is so."

Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—"Yes, I am informed that it includes pensions payable to retired judicial officers. But I daresay this amount at the most cannot exceed, say, 10 or 15 lakhs."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"Buildings also, Sir."

Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—"Here we are told that this amount also includes amounts spent on buildings that the Government are building for judicial officers every year at a cost of 50 lakhs. Then, all that I have to say is, enough of buildings."

The hon. Mr. C. P. RAMASWAMI AYYAR :—"The buildings do not cost 50 lakhs every year."

Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—"So the Government is really making a profit out of the judicial administration and therefore I say that there ought to be a reduction in the court-fees. Since the court-fees were raised on the tacit understanding that there would be a reduction when conditions got round to normal, I say there must be reduction in this direction now. One other matter is the high cost of printing that is being incurred. The translation and printing charges come up to two lakhs forty thousand rupees. But it is not known what exactly the expenditure under this head is and it is not possible to gather that information from the figures in the budget. We have one head 'Translators 40 (100-10-150)' which, I think, will in the average work up to 60,000. About the printing charges, where it is put in the budget and how much is exactly spent on the item are not

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known. Formerly there was a private printing and now the printing has been handed over to the Government Press. These charges are unduly high. . . .”

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—“ May I ask what figure in the budget the hon. Member is referring ? I shall be quite willing to explain anything there.”

Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—“ Page 26, item XVII C—‘ Translation and Printing fees—High Court ’. There the revenue is given. Then for expenditure on the administration of justice, page 131, you will see under Pay of establishment,

‘ Shorthand writers 9 (150—250) ; Translators 40 (100—10—150) ’.”

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—“ I think it must relate to translators in courts.”

Mr. S. MUTTAYYA MUDALIYAR :—“ If the hon. Member means to suggest that it relates to interpreters who are in the courts interpreting evidences, then there is a different item for it in the budget. This item cannot therefore represent interpreters. If I am wrong, if not now, the hon. the Finance Member may correct me at any stage and I shall be glad to be corrected. As I read the budget, I am not able to find any other translators anywhere else in the budget.

“ As for the printing charges incurred for the purpose of printing documents for the High Court, I do not find the item anywhere except under ‘ Printing charges—General Printing and Government Press ’. No separate estimate is given as to how much will be necessary for the purpose of printing documents. For a revenue of 2.40 lakhs, we have Rs. 60,000 for translating charges, and what exactly the other printing charges are, I am unable to understand. There is a general impression that the translation and printing charges are unduly high and there is a large surplus of about a lakh that is unnecessarily collected from the litigants who go to court for translating documents which the Judges do not understand. Much of these charges can be reduced. The translation charges ought to be reduced immediately.

“ There are various other matters which I should like to refer to in discussing the budget, but my time is limited and there is one other matter I should like to say a word about. We are having a deficit of nearly a crore this year. I find in the budget provision for buildings, for new buildings to be built. I earnestly appeal to Government to put off all new building operations so that the money that is available may be diverted to more useful purposes, such as repairing the damages caused by the floods.”

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—“ Mr. President, the hon. the Finance Member was quite frank when he stated in paragraph 13 of the memorandum ‘ there is little satisfaction to be derived from a budget which closes with a deficit of 88 lakhs ’. I agree, but I am tempted to go a step further and characterize this budget not only as unsatisfactory, but practically despondent. For, on going through the budget, I find a feeling of despondency permeating the entire budget. At the same time, the hon. the Finance Member is also prepared to accept the force, the logic, the justness and the reasonableness of our complaint when he says ‘ that too little has still been provided for nation-building, and it must be admitted that there is much leeway to be made up. ’ In another

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part of the same memorandum, he has also referred us to the strenuous fight put up by the hon. Ministers with respect to certain items of expenditure in the Transferred departments. I should have been glad if the hon. Ministers had succeeded in the strenuous fight which they appear to have put up; but so far it does not appear they have succeeded. At any rate, the memorandum and budget details give us the idea that they did not succeed in the honest attempts made for the purpose of getting more money. It is really distressing to find a budget of this character. For, on the 1st April next, we shall start with a deficit of 32 lakhs and on the 31st March 1926, we shall close with a still higher deficit of 88 lakhs. At the same time, it is proposed during the year to borrow a sum aggregating roughly two crores (I leave about a lakh or two) with a view to meet certain items of expenditure and also to wipe out this dead-weight deficit of about 88 lakhs. I am free to acknowledge that the year about to close has witnessed devastations of an unparalleled magnitude, which so far as some parts of the Presidency are concerned, has disturbed their economic equilibrium, and so far as the Government are concerned, has cast a great strain on their slender resources. With respect to the two districts in particular, Tanjore and Trichinopoly, these districts have been hit hard by two agencies, (i) by providence which gave them unprecedented floods and (ii) by executive—I won't say wrong-headedness, but executive—indifference to the crying needs of the people. So far as the floods were concerned, they have been hit very hard, and many a man who would otherwise have rolled in wealth and plenty have been reduced to a state of abject penury. So far as the Government are concerned, a large number of irrigation works and embankments have been washed away, with the result that it has thrown upon them certain amount of additional expenditure which nobody could have foreseen. But it was humanly possible for Government, sympathetically constituted—as we have a right to expect them to be—to have sympathy towards these two districts in the matter of their settlement operations and in the matter of the fervent appeals and prayers they made with respect to the resettlements which these two districts recently underwent. But so far, on account of bad finance or on account of other considerations, the Government appear to have taken a non-possumus attitude, with the result that we hear oftentimes distressing tales from these two districts. Hon. Members of this House may be perfectly aware that, about this time last year, the hon. Sir Charles Todhunter in presenting his budget to this House said: 'though not presenting either a prosperity or security budget we are justified in saying we are all clear.' That high hope of his stands unfulfilled for reasons for which it will not be just for us to lay any blame upon him. But anyhow the fact remains, that we are piling up our deficits. If I am permitted to make a comparison of the finance as it exists to-day with the finance as it existed 7 or 8 years ago, you will notice the following disparity between the various items. In 1918-19, the revenue was 14.43 lakhs; in the year 1925-26, the income is 16.51 lakhs. There is an increase of $2\frac{1}{2}$ or 3 crores. Now, let us go to the expenditure side. In 1918-19, the expenditure was 884 lakhs. Now, what is the state of things? What expenditure confronts us in the near future? In the coming year, it takes us to the magnificent sum of 1,739.82 lakhs."

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM:—"Just a small matter I should like to mention. The first figure did not include the contributions to the Government of India, while the other includes $3\frac{1}{2}$ crores."

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Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—“ In the pre-Reform days, there were divided heads of revenue.”

The hon. Mr. R. A. GRAHAM :—“ The effect is that the expenditure appears smaller because the 3½ crores was not included”

Mr. R. SRINIVASA AYYANGAR :—“ It is true there were no contributions, but anyhow there is this incubus from which we are anxious to get away as quickly as possible.

“ Coming to the broad details of the budget, we find that so far as the Reserved subjects are concerned, they are allotted 12·61 lakhs while the Transferred subjects are allotted only 4·77 lakhs. The Reserved subjects this time by way of allotment include new works for 14·85 lakhs, but the Transferred subjects get a little more, viz., 24·66 lakhs. Now, it has been complained, and very rightly and justly complained (that has been the subject of talk not only in the Council, but even outside and also formed the theme in many a platform), that the administration of the Province is and has been top-heavy. No attempt in the way of reduction has been made. When I am making this statement, I am fully conscious that the recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee have been given effect to partly, but I am at a loss to understand as to why the Government felt it difficult to go the whole hog and make up its mind to give effect to the entire recommendations of the Retrenchment Committee. There are too many officers now in the higher ranks, and it is better to make retrenchment there, and to effect Indianization which while giving a training to the Indian talent will also make the administration less costly. And then again, while the pay, privileges and prospects of the Imperial services are being bettered, I regret to note that the claims of a large number of non-gazetted officers still remain unrecognized. It is true that four or five years ago, their pay was revised, but the hon. the Finance Member and other Members of this House, will be perfectly aware that in the past two or three years meetings and conferences have been held all over the country, and recently within the past two months, as many as 200 meetings have been held all over the Presidency protesting against the present conditions and insisting upon the Government to seriously think of appointing or constituting a committee to go into the question of the organization and conditions of the Services and also to meet their demands and grievances. And it really pains me to note the notification that appeared in the *Port St. George Gazette* some time ago which did away with the note appended to some rule in the Fundamental Rules (rule 87) dealing with the allowances and leave pay which the non-gazetted officer below Rs. 300 was entitled to draw during the term of his leave. But I do not propose to go into that in detail at present.

“ A Land Revenue Bill on the lines of the recommendations of the Joint Parliamentary Committee was long overdue; and while this Council has turned down the Bill introduced into this House by Sir Arthur Knapp some time ago, it is rather difficult to understand why it has been held up, but it is rather refreshing to hear from the Revenue Member that it is under contemplation to introduce this Bill somewhere in August this year. But I do not understand the object why pending the introduction of this Bill Government should carry on resettlement operations under executive orders in their merry-go-round fashion. I raise my protest against that. Then I would

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ask the Finance Member, and also the Revenue Member (who I observe is absent) to take into consideration the question of reinstating these village officers who have been thrown out of employ consequent upon the regrouping or amalgamation. It is left open to him to form a committee and by means of referendum ascertain the wishes of the people whether they will insist upon the old rate of pay or they would work as non-official workers. Opinion seems to be divided just now. After coming to the Council this morning, I received a letter from Villupuram wherein they say that, so far as monigars are concerned, they are prepared to take less pay provided their confreres who have been unceremoniously thrown out are restored to office.

"Coming to Excise, I wish to make a remark or two. It is rather in the nature of an anomaly that the Education Minister should be in charge of Excise as well. The only point of affinity between the two seems to be that both begin with the fifth letter of the alphabet, E (laughter). These two departments have different objectives which it is impossible to reconcile. So far as Excise is concerned, you raise money by taxing the vice of the people, but so far as Education is concerned, you spend the money to elevate the condition of the people and remove illiteracy. Under this system, the Education Minister is placed in an embarrassing position, and he finds himself between two stools. While his sympathy may be towards reducing consumption involving a fall in revenue and initiating a policy of temperance, when he sets his heart upon adumbrating a scheme of expansion of elementary education, he is confronted with want of funds and he necessarily feels obliged to give up the other thing. It seems to me, Sir, that the time has come, so far as this province is concerned, to inaugurate a steady policy of temperance with absolute and ultimate prohibition as the goal. I have no doubt that if that policy be kept in view, in the near future it will succeed. I am not unmindful of the fact when I make that statement that it is likely to bring about a considerable drop in the income, but the Government must be prepared to face this situation and any loss which

3-50 p.m.

this might bring about may be compensated by less expenditure partly under 'Jails' and partly under 'Police'. I make this statement advisedly for, a fortnight ago, I heard when I was sitting in the court of sessions, an approver getting into the box and telling us that they organized a large party and helped themselves with arrack some 12 hours before that party about 20 strong set out on the expedition of looting and committing dacoity. That shows that people help themselves very largely with drink for the purpose of easing others of their property by using violence or by means of intimidation. At any cost, this moral degradation of the people must be wiped off. At any cost, national honour and national manhood must be maintained. While I am on this, I am tempted to quote the report of a speech said to have been made by the hon. the Minister for Education at Bellare. That speech does not show that he is very much for the elimination of the excise revenue. For, I find there a struggle between his head and heart. That is the interpretation which I am constrained to put upon that. This is what the report says. 'While advance in excise policy is necessary, he (the hon. the Minister) asked them (the audience) to consider whether it was desirable to accelerate the reform in a manner that would completely dislocate the finances of the province.' I say, this excise dislocates the human frame, the frame of the nation. That does not trouble him. He is more troubled by

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the dislocation of the finances of the province which are in a large measure derived from this source. He further says that it is necessary therefore to consider the steps to be taken to replace the revenue which would be lost by the adoption of a measure of reform in this direction. The matter does not end there. He says that it is a matter for the public to consider between the progress of the nation-building departments and the elimination of the excise revenue. Reading between the lines, I can safely say that the hon. the Minister is for giving preference to the revenue derived from excise. In that state of things, it is rather too much to expect much in the way of elimination from the mentality of the hon. the Minister for Education judging him from the views expressed by him at Killore and not as Mr. Patro, a temperance worker and an ardent congressman.

"I should also say that the time has come for the reduction of the court-fees and also stamps. It is true that this Council voted for an increase in these directions, but it was with a view not only to improve the deficit but also to set apart a certain amount of money for payment to the village officers. Turning to the Administration Report for 1923-24, I find that the total receipts on criminal, civil and revenue courts for the year ending December 1923 was Rs. 154 lakhs, whereas the expenditure for the same period was 98 lakhs leaving a surplus of 56 lakhs. I do not think that any Government in the world is entitled to make profit out of justice and therefore this surplus must necessarily go towards bringing to fruition any scheme that will relieve the burden of taxation. But so far as the hon. the Finance Member is concerned, in answer to a question put by the hon. Member from Coimbatore, he said that there was no chance. While his answer was chilling and damping, a different note was struck by the hon. the Law Member who was not prepared to go that length. He told us in no uncertain terms that he would call for statistics and if as the result of the examination of those statistics he found that there was a fall in the institution of suits consequent upon the increase of court-fees, that matter would surely engage his kind and sympathetic attention.

"I want also to refer to the reduction of the registration fees recently enhanced and also to the levying of 5 annas upon documents that are presented to the registration officer requesting him to send them by post. There are various other things also to which I wish to refer, but for want of time for all that, I would at the present moment keep my powder dry for being utilized on a future occasion not a long way off."

IV

DISTRIBUTION OF TIME FOR DISCUSSION OF DEMANDS FOR GRANTS.

The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"I promised to let the House know about the orders of His Excellency the Governor regarding the distribution of time. I have heard from His Excellency that he would allow one day of five hours for each of the following three demands:—

I. LAND REVENUE

XVII. EDUCATION—TRANSFERRED and

XXVIII. CIVIL WORKS—TRANSFERRED.

"These demands will get a maximum of one day of five hours each and for the other demands there will be a maximum of $2\frac{1}{2}$ hours each. Of course,

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[The President]

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[Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi]

[4th March 1925]

"In answer to what was said by the hon. the Leader of the House, I assure him that we all know that the final disposal of this matter rests entirely with His Excellency. But since we cannot constitutionally claim direct access to His Excellency, we can only request you, Mr. President, as the representative of this House, and my hon. Friend Sir Arthur Knapp to intercede on our behalf and convey to him our wishes."

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III—GENERAL DISCUSSION ON THE BUDGET—cont.

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR :—"Although the Madras tax-payer can congratulate himself on the fact that last year's joke—
3-45 p.m. no doubt unintended—of a balanced budget was not repeated this year—and jokes do not bear repetition—I am afraid there is nothing for him to congratulate himself on the budget so lucidly presented by the hon. the Finance Member the other day. The very fact that on 1st April 1926 the indebtedness of the province with the Central Government will be Rs. 1,451,90 as compared with the Rs. 1,282,60 which it is expected to be on 1st April 1925 is enough to depress even the most optimistic among us. But from the point of view of the ryot—which is the only view-point as regards budgets—one would search in vain for any ray of hope or promise of relief.

"As regards the departments with which he is most concerned, viz., Land Revenue, Excise, Forests, Irrigation, Local Self-Government and Village Communications and Agriculture and Co-operation, there is absolutely nothing in the present budget at which the tax-payer should rejoice or for which he should feel grateful.

"As regards Excise, I join my hon. Friend Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar in wishing that the hon. Minister for Education and, may I add, Excise, had come out with proposals for promoting the cause of temperance. In spite of the persistent demand for minimizing the drink evil in this province, the hon. Minister for Education has budgeted for nearly the normal state of revenue. He will not consider total prohibition possible at any time within his mental horizon. Even in petty matters as the location of toddy shops in the most objectionable places in mufassal towns, as in the case of Polar in North Arcot district, he will not move his little finger even when the local officials recommend their removal to less objectionable localities.

4th March 1925] [Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar]

"The forests whose existence and preservation is said to be for the benefit of the ryots, while they are so scientifically managed as to successfully keep out the ryots from deriving any benefit from them, are, at the same time so uneconomically worked as to eat away all the receipts under that head, whereas in any other civilized country in the world this magnificent natural asset would be made to yield a substantial income to Government.

"The phrase 'scientific management' is the cloak under which a whole army of 'Research officers', 'Utilization officers', 'Forest economists' and 'Exploitation officers' is entertained and the tax-payer is kept blissfully ignorant of the work turned out by these officers. The word 'Exploitation' is an ugly one sometimes.

"While the highly-paid European officers with no easily understandable duties have been multiplied, the Indianization of the Forest Service, even to the modest extent recommended by the Islington Committee, was not given effect to except perhaps by the promotion of four or five of the Provincial Service men to the Imperial Service. But even these fortunate few did not receive the benefits which the Lee Report bestowed on their European colleagues.

"No attempt seems to be made to curtail even avoidable expenditure. To give only one instance, in spite of the fact that a large portion of the reserve forests has either been disafforested or handed over to the control of village forest panchayats, the former number of highly-paid officers and rangers are being maintained at the tax-payers' expense. There are, I understand, six supernumerary Extra Assistant Conservators of Forests and yet a special staff of Panchayat officers and Inspectors are maintained to control the panchayat forest reserves.

"Perhaps in no other country in the world can this phenomenon of maintaining a hundred highly-paid officers to control 200 rangers be found as is unfortunately the case in this benighted province. Sometimes one can hardly resist the temptation for thinking that Government, in its forest administration at least, considers that people exist for these officers and not the other way. Otherwise, it is hard to understand why when formerly there were only three circles with three Conservators in the province, after a considerable portion of the reserve has been disafforested, there should be now six Conservators.

"The Special Panchayat Officer who is a Deputy Collector and his Inspectors who have been recruited from the clerical ranks can boast of no special knowledge of forest conservation. Their work could very well be done by the regular departmental staff since a similar panchayat system guided by the departmental officers is found to work at least equally well.

"It is high time panchayat management is rapidly extended and the cost of the department reduced at a rapid rate. At any rate, the continued maintenance of a large number of high and low paid officers without any work at a heavy cost to the tax-payer, while it may be 'scientific', is neither 'economic' nor prudent.

"There seems to be a sort of curse on all commercial concerns undertaken by the Forest department. Russellkonda has been followed by Olavakot."

[4th March 1925]

The hon. Sir ARTHUR KNAPP:—"Does the hon. Member suggest that Russellkonda is working at a loss?"

Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—"I do not say so. But I am coming to it presently.

"Olavakkot is expected to make packing cases for the convenience of tea and perhaps rubber planters while Russellkonda, I am told—let me hope my information is not accurate—sent wooden sleepers to the Calcutta market where they had to be sold at a heavy loss.

"The Forest College at Coimbatore cannot be considered except as an unnecessary waste of money as the department is already over-manned and there are even now officers without any definite work.

"Turning now to the department under the care of the hon. Minister for Development, first as regards co-operation, it is regrettable to note that the figures for 1925-26 are almost a copy of the figures for 1924-25. Nay, in one respect it is worse. There is a budgeted increase this year of Rs. 50,000 over the actuals of the previous year. While he could not be unaware of the fact that the last Provincial Co-operative Conference almost unanimously resolved to recommend the abolition of the institution of Honorary Assistant Registrars, an institution which, intentionally or unintentionally, makes Assistant Registrars to resort to the exercise of party-patronage, it is most sad to find that the present budget provides for the same number of Honorary Assistant Registrars as last year, viz., 79 and for their peons and for their travelling allowances against the wishes of the very people whose interests they are supposed to safeguard. The system of appointing Honorary Assistant Registrars is, moreover, opposed to the principle which the hon. Minister is never tired of repeating, in season and out of season, that Government intends to transfer control to institutions and not to individuals.

"Next let us see whether there is even a shadow of justification for keeping up the cost of administration so high. Seven thousand five hundred and fifty-five co-operative societies, or a little over 75 per cent of the total number of societies in the province are being now controlled and supervised by the 280 co-operative unions. These unions efficiently discharge most of the duties which were originally discharged by the departmental staff and that staff is now left only with mere statutory duties of registration, audit and liquidation. Yet, the same number of Assistant Registrars and Inspectors is being kept up.

"Prior to the coming into existence of these co-operative unions, when the department had to look after both statutory and non-statutory duties, the cost to Government, up to the year 1918-19, was only Rs. 61 per society; whereas, in the year 1922-23, after the coming into existence and successful working of 280 Co-operative Supervising Unions, consisting of about 1,500 selected co-operators in the Province, viz., the governing body members, who employ out of their own funds 237 supervisors, the cost to Government has risen to Rs. 63 per society.

"The MacLaggen Committee on Co-operation has clearly laid down that Government should rapidly reduce expenditure and non-officialize the movement and eventually withdraw from the field altogether. According to this expert committee an auditor should be able to audit 100 societies and super-audit 200 more. The committee appointed by the Bihar and Orissa

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Government has laid down that an Assistant Registrar should be able to manage 1,500 societies. But what do we find here? We have an auditor for every 40 societies and an Assistant Registrar for every 400 societies. Thus, while the hon. the Minister pays lip service to the principle of non-officialization of the movement at the earliest possible opportunity, he lacks the strength to withstand the attempts of the officials who must necessarily justify their own existence and try to make out a case for their continued entertainment. The hon. the Minister, in the administration of the Co-operative department, seems to have no other policy except that of weakness, vacillation and drift, with the result, that after a quarter of a century of practice of co-operation the tax-payer has to find annually seven lakhs of rupees to maintain an ever-increasing army of co-operative officials.

"As regards another branch of the administration for which the same hon. Minister is responsible, viz., Agriculture, the tax-payer can find no greater satisfaction. While there is enough money to pay the scientific experts and specialists—I am glad they are not called 'Exploitation officers' in this department—and the Pest Act staff and what not the fixed travelling allowance to Agricultural Demonstrators is put down at such a low figure that the Demonstrators either do not tour for an adequate number of days in a month or manage to visit only places very near their headquarters with the result that the scientific expert knowledge brought into the country at such a fabulous cost to the tax-payer practically never reaches him. Under such circumstances, would it be unreasonable to suggest that the suggested paddy-breeding farm in Kistna Delta which is estimated to cost nearly a lakh of rupees may be allowed to wait some time longer, until our finances are in a sounder condition?

"The Pest Act staff should be dispensed with and their work should be capable of being attended to by the revenue subordinates and the existence of a large number of men who have passed out of the Agricultural College, but cannot obtain employment should make Government hesitate before spending large amounts on this institution and building comfortable additional cottages for the growing staff.

"The costly adventure at Chintaladevi has been followed by the gamble of a cattle-breeding farm at Matigiri, an annually plague-infected area. As in the cognate subject of co-operation, the policy of the hon. the Minister seems to be only one of helplessness and drift. No stronger proof need be adduced for this than to point to the deputation of Mr. Pinto to Europe and America at a huge cost for purchasing a few thousand rupees' worth of boring machinery.

"As regards Industries, the same want of policy is visible. The thousands of tins of tinned fish which are patiently waiting to find their way to the connoisseur's palate and the jam factory and the glue factory are monumental examples of how such enterprises are mismanaged.

"While the investigation of the possibilities of lace-making industry is to be undertaken with a view to meeting a chance demand from America or perhaps from some other place, no attempt is ever made to revive the cottage-industries of the country. The organization of hand-spinning and production of Khadder either as an auxiliary cottage-industry for the ryot (in his slack season) or on co-operative lines, does not seem to have been even thought of as a possibility.

[Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar] [4th March 1925]

"As regards Irrigation, while Government has of late been spending considerable sums on the restoration of normal conditions in the deltaic districts of the south, it cannot afford to disregard the fact that there is a strong impression in the minds of the people that had the Engineering and Irrigation departments not been negligent of their duties such unprecedented damages would not have occurred. But this is only by the way. What concerns most districts like North Arcot is the fact that minor irrigation works are woefully neglected. Hundreds of irrigation sources which are entered in the accounts as capable of a eight or ten months' supply do not give a supply for even three months sometimes, although the Revenue Divisional Officers see water where other mortals cannot, as I found in Kilvidi in Arkonam taluk not many weeks back.

"In North Arcot, a district which depends helplessly on minor irrigation works, in spite of strenuous efforts, only one work is to be taken up in the year 1925-26, and that too under conditions which would place this benefit beyond the reach of ordinary ryots. Government ought to be more liberal in this matter and should not insist on one-sixth contribution in hard cash and an enhanced assessment which would work out at the rate of 6 per cent on the capital outlay.

"North Arcot is full of large irrigation tanks which are not at all reclaimed. A little more liberality on the part of Government in this direction would not only be a preventive of famines but also avoid the necessity for recurring annual remissions. Especially this year, this district is passing through a season of exceptionally severe drought and whole villages are being depopulated.

"The financial condition of the local bodies is most deplorable the more so because these, if properly functioning, could be administering the bulk of the nation-building activities of the Province. Whether in the matter of education or village communications, the financial condition of the local bodies affects the ryots most intimately. For instance, although many local bodies were encouraged to levy the unpopular road cess of a quarter-anna to be specially set apart for village roads, owing to the financial stringency of these bodies, the amounts thus collected were utilized for other purposes.

"Deficits seem to be the natural condition of every local board, and it is the usual thing for these bodies to approach Government every year for money. But only small doles are given and they are next to useless. And Government itself having taxed all the sources of income, there is very little scope left for local bodies. The result is that unless Government subsidises local bodies liberally there cannot possibly be any improvement in the state of affairs.

"Recently Vellore Taluk Board had, I understand, to close down 24 schools under it as there was a deficit which neither the District Board of North Arcot nor the Government would meet.

"The budget estimate for 1925-26 seems to take a more roseate view as regards the income under Land Revenue than the present seasonal conditions would warrant. The fixing of the revenue by permanent settlement is the only solution one can see for the many difficulties which the Government as well as the ryots have to face from time to time.

4th March 1925] [Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar]

" The fact that Government is still delaying taking action on the resolution of this House passed as long ago as 9th February 1924 in the matter of the cancellation of the regrouping of villages and the restoration to office of the village officers who lost their appointments as a result of this regrouping, is causing widespread dissatisfaction besides doing grave injustice to the thousands of unfortunate men who are obliged to be in a state of suspense without seeking other sources of income at least to keep body and soul together.

" Again, under Land Revenue, there is considerable scope for keeping down the present scale of expenditure. In spite of the fact that now income-tax work has been taken away from them, the same number of deputy collectors have been provided for in the current budget estimate. I would even suggest that there is no need for the appointment of the twelve special tahsildars for what is styled ' District Maintenance '.

" Retrenchment should be the aim in a year of deficits like the present. The Board of Revenue has long been considered as an expensive anachronism and it is a matter for surprise that Government should still seek to perpetuate this institution.

" Unless my North Arcot experience has been particularly unfortunate, I cannot consider a clear case has been made out for the Personal Assistant to the Registrar-General of Panchayats and his special staff. The provision for a Personal Assistant to the Chief Conservator of Forests should, in my opinion, be opposed as the department already retains officers with no work or only with nominal duties. The office of the Inspector of Registration offices which has been allowed to remain unfilled since 1922 without any apparent deterioration in the administration of that department, can be allowed to remain vacant some time more. I would even venture to suggest that having tried the Ministers' Secretaries for some time we can see whether we cannot pull on for a year without their valuable services.

" The building of residential quarters except in localities where houses for rent are absolutely unobtainable cannot be considered
4 p.m. advisable in a year of huge deficits like the present one. The house for the Executive Engineer at Vellore, and quarters for two excise officers cannot be considered to be matters of such grave urgency as cannot wait another year or so.

" Before sanctioning the estimate for one lakh for the Tuberculosis Jail at Bellary this House is entitled to know how it is that a large number of convicts have within such a short time fallen victims to this disease so as to need a hospital all to themselves and whether there is any truth in the rumours that prisoners who have gone to jail for what are usually understood as political offences, although Government persistently says it has not a special class of prisoners as political prisoners, have contributed largely to the number of victims to this disease.

" Considered in every way this is a budget on which we can congratulate neither the Government nor the tax-payer. I trust that at least when it emerges finally out of this discussion, it will assume a shape which will be more acceptable to the people.

[Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar] [4th March 1925]

"Finally I would repeat what has fallen from the lips of so many of my hon. Friends that the hon. the Finance Member had better not mention anything about the Cotton Excise Duty which he mentioned the other day."

The House adjourned at 4 p.m. to meet again at 11 a.m. next day.

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.

APPENDIX I.

[Vide answer to question No. 302 asked by Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar at the meeting of the Legislative Council held on the 4th March 1925, page 692 supra.]

1273 Q.—MR. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR: Will the hon. the Home Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the panchayats for class V reserves could not be organized by Forest subordinates;

(b) whether the experiment was ever tried;

(c) whether it is not possible to bring under one control both village forest panchayats and class V panchayats;

(d) whether the Forest Panchayat Officer is trained in forest conservation and whether his subordinates also are similarly trained people;

(e) how the special staff is specially qualified to teach ryots better management of forests;

(f) whether the village forest panchayats are at present under a definite organization and whether forest subordinates are supervising their panchayats satisfactorily; and

(g) what is the difference between the management of village forest panchayats and class V reserves, and even if there is a difference, whether Forest subordinates cannot work them satisfactorily?

A.—(a) The policy of the Government has been to dissociate subordinates of the Forest department from the organization of panchayats.

(b) No.

(c) The working of the forest village system is different from the working of the ordinary panchayat system. The control of the Forest department is necessary for the former, but it is not suited to the latter.

(d) The panchayat staff have sufficient training in forest conservation to deal with the comparatively simple problems that arise.

(e) The training which the Forest Panchayat Officer has received in the Co-operative and Forest departments is calculated to fit him for this special work.

(f) The forest village panchayats work under the supervision of the ordinary forest staff. The system is on the whole satisfactory.

4th March 1925] [Mr. R. Srinivasa Ayyangar]

ask the Finance Member, and also the Revenue Member (who I observe is absent) to take into consideration the question of reinstating these village officers who have been thrown out of employ consequent upon the regrouping or amalgamation. It is left open to him to form a committee and by means of referendum ascertain the wishes of the people whether they will insist upon the old rate of pay or they would work as non-official workers. Opinion seems to be divided just now. After coming to the Council this morning, I received a letter from Villupuram wherein they say that, so far as monigars are concerned, they are prepared to take less pay provided their confreres who have been unceremoniously thrown out are restored to office.

"Coming to Excise, I wish to make a remark or two. It is rather in the nature of an anomaly that the Education Minister should be in charge of Excise as well. The only point of affinity between the two seems to be that both begin with the fifth letter of the alphabet, E (laughter). These two departments have different objectives which it is impossible to reconcile. So far as Excise is concerned, you raise money by taxing the vice of the people, but so far as Education is concerned, you spend the money to elevate the condition of the people and remove illiteracy. Under this system, the Education Minister is placed in an embarrassing position, and he finds himself between two stools. While his sympathy may be towards reducing consumption involving a fall in revenue and initiating a policy of temperance, when he sets his heart upon adumbrating a scheme of expansion of elementary education, he is confronted with want of funds and he necessarily feels obliged to give up the other thing. It seems to me, Sir, that the time has come, so far as this province is concerned, to inaugurate a steady policy of temperance with absolute and ultimate prohibition as the goal. I have no doubt that if that policy be kept in view, in the near future it will succeed. I am not unmindful of the fact when I make that statement that it is likely to bring about a considerable drop in the income, but the Government must be prepared to face this situation and any loss which

3-50 p.m.

this might bring about may be compensated by less expenditure partly under 'Jails' and partly under 'Police'. I make this statement advisedly for, a fortnight ago, I heard when I was sitting in the court of sessions, an approver getting into the box and telling us that they organized a large party and helped themselves with arrack some 12 hours before that party about 20 strong set out on the expedition of looting and committing dacoity. That shows that people help themselves very largely with drink for the purpose of easing others of their property by using violence or by means of intimidation. At any cost, this moral degradation of the people must be wiped off. At any cost, national honour and national manhood must be maintained. While I am on this, I am tempted to quote the report of a speech said to have been made by the hon. the Minister for Education at Bellare. That speech does not show that he is very much for the elimination of the excise revenue. For, I find there a struggle between his head and heart. That is the interpretation which I am constrained to put upon that. This is what the report says. 'While advance in excise policy is necessary, he (the hon. the Minister) asked them (the audience) to consider whether it was desirable to accelerate the reform in a manner that would completely dislocate the finances of the province.' I say, this excise dislocates the human frame, the frame of the nation. That does not trouble him. He is more troubled by

4th March 1925]

[The President]

it will not be possible that all the other demands could be discussed for 2½ hours each for which purpose we might want very much more than a month. But the House will do as much as it can and as far as it can accommodate itself within the general limit of time because we have to finish on the date originally notified, i.e., on the 27th March. The result of this arrangement will be that the discussion of the particular Demand XI which consists of Ministerial salaries and the Civil Secretariat under the Ministers will come on for discussion probably on the 5th or 6th day even if the full time allotted is devoted to each of the previous demands. The House will get 2½ hours for the discussion of that particular demand. That is the arrangement at present made by His Excellency the Governor."

Mr. C. RAMALINGA REDDI:—"In this connexion, I want to bring to your kind notice the feeling on the Opposition side of the House that the time allotted is utterly inadequate to the discussion of the reduction of the Ministerial salaries which is sure to be proposed. I may draw your kind notice to the fact that we have not had anything like a full-dress debate on the Ministerial policy and administration for a very long time past and that we, if we have to function as an opposition, must pick up an opportunity for educating the country since we are here in a minority. What after all the most important item in the present constitution is the Ministerial responsibility. I therefore make an appeal to you and to my hon. Friend, the Leader of the House, to try and meet us in this matter, as is very often done, almost invariably done in the Legislative Assembly, and give us a whole day. If this has to be secured by cutting down the time allotted to any other demand by an equal amount, my friends on this side of the House will have no objection. They would like to draw very special attention of you, Mr. President and the Leader of the House, to the inadequacy of the time now provided and they would urge that a whole day be given."

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[Mr. C. Ramalinga Reddi]

[4th March 1925]

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"As regards Excise, I join my hon. Friend Mr. T. A. Ramalinga Chettiyar in wishing that the hon. Minister for Education and, may I add, Excise, had come out with proposals for promoting the cause of temperance. In spite of the persistent demand for minimizing the drink evil in this province, the hon. Minister for Education has budgeted for nearly the normal state of revenue. He will not consider total prohibition possible at any time within his mental horizon. Even in petty matters as the location of toddy shops in the most objectionable places in mufassal towns, as in the case of Polar in North Arcot district, he will not move his little finger even when the local officials recommend their removal to less objectionable localities.

4th March 1925] [Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar]

"The forests whose existence and preservation is said to be for the benefit of the ryots, while they are so scientifically managed as to successfully keep out the ryots from deriving any benefit from them, are, at the same time so uneconomically worked as to eat away all the receipts under that head, whereas in any other civilized country in the world this magnificent natural asset would be made to yield a substantial income to Government.

"The phrase 'scientific management' is the cloak under which a whole army of 'Research officers', 'Utilization officers', 'Forest economists' and 'Exploitation officers' is entertained and the tax-payer is kept blissfully ignorant of the work turned out by these officers. The word 'Exploitation' is an ugly one sometimes.

"While the highly-paid European officers with no easily understandable duties have been multiplied, the Indianization of the Forest Service, even to the modest extent recommended by the Islington Committee, was not given effect to except perhaps by the promotion of four or five of the Provincial Service men to the Imperial Service. But even these fortunate few did not receive the benefits which the Lee Report bestowed on their European colleagues.

"No attempt seems to be made to curtail even avoidable expenditure. To give only one instance, in spite of the fact that a large portion of the reserve forests has either been disafforested or handed over to the control of village forest panchayats, the former number of highly-paid officers and rangers are being maintained at the tax-payers' expense. There are, I understand, six supernumerary Extra Assistant Conservators of Forests and yet a special staff of Panchayat officers and Inspectors are maintained to control the panchayat forest reserves.

"Perhaps in no other country in the world can this phenomenon of maintaining a hundred highly-paid officers to control 200 rangers be found as is unfortunately the case in this benighted province. Sometimes one can hardly resist the temptation for thinking that Government, in its forest administration at least, considers that people exist for these officers and not the other way. Otherwise, it is hard to understand why when formerly there were only three circles with three Conservators in the province, after a considerable portion of the reserve has been disafforested, there should be now six Conservators.

"The Special Panchayat Officer who is a Deputy Collector and his Inspectors who have been recruited from the clerical ranks can boast of no special knowledge of forest conservation. Their work could very well be done by the regular departmental staff since a similar panchayat system guided by the departmental officers is found to work at least equally well.

"It is high time panchayat management is rapidly extended and the cost of the department reduced at a rapid rate. At any rate, the continued maintenance of a large number of high and low paid officers without any work at a heavy cost to the tax-payer, while it may be 'scientific', is neither 'economic' nor prudent.

"There seems to be a sort of curse on all commercial concerns undertaken by the Forest department. Russellkonda has been followed by Olavakot."

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ask the Finance Member, and also the Revenue Member (who I observe is absent) to take into consideration the question of reinstating these village officers who have been thrown out of employ consequent upon the regrouping or amalgamation. It is left open to him to form a committee and by means of referendum ascertain the wishes of the people whether they will insist upon the old rate of pay or they would work as non-official workers. Opinion seems to be divided just now. After coming to the Council this morning, I received a letter from Villupuram wherein they say that, so far as monigars are concerned, they are prepared to take less pay provided their confreres who have been unceremoniously thrown out are restored to office.

"Coming to Excise, I wish to make a remark or two. It is rather in the nature of an anomaly that the Education Minister should be in charge of Excise as well. The only point of affinity between the two seems to be that both begin with the fifth letter of the alphabet, E (laughter). These two departments have different objectives which it is impossible to reconcile. So far as Excise is concerned, you raise money by taxing the vice of the people, but so far as Education is concerned, you spend the money to elevate the condition of the people and remove illiteracy. Under this system, the Education Minister is placed in an embarrassing position, and he finds himself between two stools. While his sympathy may be towards reducing consumption involving a fall in revenue and initiating a policy of temperance, when he sets his heart upon adumbrating a scheme of expansion of elementary education, he is confronted with want of funds and he necessarily feels obliged to give up the other thing. It seems to me, Sir, that the time has come, so far as this province is concerned, to inaugurate a steady policy of temperance with absolute and ultimate prohibition as the goal. I have no doubt that if that policy be kept in view, in the near future it will succeed. I am not unmindful of the fact when I make that statement that it is likely to bring about a considerable drop in the income, but the Government must be prepared to face this situation and any loss which

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this might bring about may be compensated by less expenditure partly under 'Jails' and partly under 'Police'. I make this statement advisedly for, a fortnight ago, I heard when I was sitting in the court of sessions, an approver getting into the box and telling us that they organized a large party and helped themselves with arrack some 12 hours before that party about 20 strong set out on the expedition of looting and committing dacoity. That shows that people help themselves very largely with drink for the purpose of easing others of their property by using violence or by means of intimidation. At any cost, this moral degradation of the people must be wiped off. At any cost, national honour and national manhood must be maintained. While I am on this, I am tempted to quote the report of a speech said to have been made by the hon. the Minister for Education at Bellare. That speech does not show that he is very much for the elimination of the excise revenue. For, I find there a struggle between his head and heart. That is the interpretation which I am constrained to put upon that. This is what the report says. 'While advance in excise policy is necessary, he (the hon. the Minister) asked them (the audience) to consider whether it was desirable to accelerate the reform in a manner that would completely dislocate the finances of the province.' I say, this excise dislocates the human frame, the frame of the nation. That does not trouble him. He is more troubled by

[Mr. J. A. Saldanha]

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was not aware that our town is infested with lepers. Anybody who passes over our roads, if he has eyes to see and observe things with, can easily know the fact. What is the use of replying that the Government have no information on such a vitally important matter as that? We now find a lot of people busying themselves about the question of leprosy because the Viceroy and other big people have moved in the matter. Why could not Government get at it before? Any local officer, the Collector or the chairman of the municipality, could have easily given the information. It is all very well to dance about, now that the Viceroy and others are moving in the matter, but it was then *suo motu* really a question of doing something humanitarian to the people, but in this cause the Ministers were nowhere and did nothing.

"Another point I want to touch is on the lying-in hospital at Mangalore. It is such a disgrace to the Government and the public that I think the hon. the Chief Minister should have known it two years ago when he visited that institution. I have seen with my own eyes 11 or 12 women in the maternity ward, which is not more than 12 by 20 feet. In this, these women were huddled together in the most miserable condition. And I am told that sometimes it is even worse, and if the hon. the Minister did come to know of it, I am sure he should have done something. We in Mangalore have now collected about Rs. 20,000 and applied for some provision being made. I find nothing in the budget which shows an attempt at least to meet us half-way and give us something so that we can start the hospital at once. It is so very badly needed and I want to know what the Government is going to do in this matter, in the way of giving us something. We have got only about Rs. 20,000 and we want something more to begin the work at once.

"The Indian Lepers Act was passed in the year 1898 and as yet Government have taken no measures whatever for the last 20 years to provide us with any large hospital or give adequate aid to the existing leper asylums in Mangalore and elsewhere. Now at last comes the big scheme of a leper colony at Chingleput which has been pitched upon us without taking the public into confidence and ascertaining the general opinion whether a large leper colony at a cost of several lakhs of rupees in Chingleput district would satisfy the needs and conveniences of the whole Presidency. Every leper would naturally wish to remain in a place near his own and among people talking the same language as he does, and do you expect that people from Malabar or Kanara would willingly go all the way to the Chingleput district for being properly housed, treated and taken care of? Apart from that, the question is whether Government is now entrusting the work to a society which would economically carry out the functions of a leper asylum. Dealing with lepers is a thing of a very difficult nature, and among us, Roman Catholics, we have got religious orders several centuries old who have been dealing with this question, who have been looking after lepers as a labour of love, who have given up the world and whose one object in life is the care of the sick even at the risk and sacrifice of their lives. Men and women like Father Daniel have contracted leprosy in order to save lepers and have died as lepers. Such religious persons can do useful work. As a matter of fact we find at Chingleput an arrangement was arrived at with a religious order in the year 1913, and we have not heard much of it afterwards. Now at last, as a very big scheme is started from big quarters,